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## Cohen: US to fund R&D of third Arrow battery

By ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

The US will fund the research and development stage of a third Arrow anti-missile battery, visiting US Secretary of State William Cohen said yesterday.

Cohen made the announcement following an in-depth briefing with Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai and top Defense Ministry officials and IDF commanders.

The government outlined Israel's military modernization program over the next decade for Cohen, who was also briefed on the proliferation of long-range surface-to-surface missiles, particularly in Iran, as well as biological and chemical weapons.

Cohen said the funding for the third battery is at the appropriations level in Congress.

"We are committed to the R&D level of funding the missile," Cohen said, adding he expects it to be approved. Cohen declined from saying how much money was involved. But the price of a third battery is reportedly between \$150 million and \$200m. It is not clear

## Moves under way to bring Moledet into government

By SARAH HONIG

Intensive talks are under way with an eye to bringing Moledet into the coalition, it was revealed yesterday, with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu confirming that he has approached Moledet on the matter.

"It should be clear that the intention is for Moledet to be able to express its opinion on any subject in the cabinet, but it must accept the government guidelines, and, like any other faction, honor cabinet decisions," Netanyahu said, before meeting US Defense

Secretary William Cohen.

The premier stressed that there is as yet no agreement nor has any portfolio been allocated.

Moledet spokeswoman Datis Yitzhaki confirmed that Netanyahu had approached party leader Rehavam Ze'evi on the matter, adding that party officers had given its Knesset faction the green light to negotiate.

Ze'evi also confirmed that talks have been held, but refused to elaborate.

If a deal is worked out, the government coalition would gain two more mandates, after losing five in

January when Geshet's MKs walked out, following David Levy's resignation as foreign minister.

At present Netanyahu commands a majority of 61 MKs, several of whom periodically threaten to vote against the government on major issues.

Netanyahu admitted that a significant problem is the fact that Moledet strenuously opposes the Oslo Accords and any further redeployment.

A top Moledet source said that "the idea of letting the party have its say in the cabinet but then be automatically voted down may not

meet our criterion of making a contribution."

The source pointed to the frustration of such Likud MKs as Ze'ev Begin, who hold anti-Oslo views but are powerless to influence government policy.

Some of the Likud's more hawkish ministers, however, are said to be very interested in having Moledet in the coalition.

They point out that cabinet votes on such matters as redeployment have been quite close and that Ze'evi could even the scales in favor of the hawks. This apparently is the message they have been

sending Ze'evi.

However, Moledet's joining is judged as unlikely by other Likud sources, especially those close to Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai.

The more middle-of-the-road Likud elements argue that the entry of Moledet will not stabilize the government, as Netanyahu may hope, but will lead to precisely the opposite.

It is likely to irk the Third Way and possibly Yisrael Ba'Aliya and introduce even more discord into the coalition.

These sources add that Moledet

is unlikely to be satisfied by the conditions that Netanyahu can offer.

Netanyahu's real aim, according to these sources, may be to win tacit Moledet support for some of his moves from outside the government.

If some agreement is worked out, Ze'evi is likely to be appointed minister-without-portfolio, Likud sources said.

Netanyahu will thus fill his government's ministerial limit, while holding on to the Foreign Affairs portfolio he assumed when Levy resigned.

## Separate summits set in London

By HILLEL KUTTLER and JAY BUSHINSKY

WASHINGTON — US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright will meet separately in London with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat on May 4, the State Department said yesterday.

US Middle East coordinator Dennis Ross and Assistant Secretary of State for Near East Affairs Martin Indyk will travel to the region this weekend to prepare for the London meetings.

State Department spokesman James Rubin issued a veiled threat to the parties that the London meetings might be their last chance to advance the peace process before the US retreats from its central role.

"We are going to continue working on this process so long as we think there's a chance that the leaders will make the hard decisions," Rubin said. "If we conclude in London that they're not, then that may be the end of it."

He also kept open the possibility of Albright's meeting with both leaders together, although that is not being contemplated now. A senior US official said the administration is "only planning for bilateral meetings now."

The US is determined to help "until we think that we can't make any more progress diplomatically," Rubin said, adding that the point has not yet been reached where "additional discussions are not useful."

The US official said the administration is focused now "on bringing the parties to an agreement" that entails not merely the remaining interim-status issues, but the US's four-part agenda for moving ahead.

"That's got to be the focus," he said. "We're talking about an agreement that'll allow the sides to enter permanent-status negotiations, what we've been talking about for a year."

Rubin said that while British

Prime Minister Tony Blair might have helped encourage Netanyahu and Arafat to progress, the US is "not aware at this point that there has been any substantive change of the position of either of the parties," he said.

"And as far as we're concerned, there still are very significant and difficult roadblocks to restarting the peace process. And that is what Ambassador Ross will be talking about on his visit. And hopefully, we'll be able to clear

meeting in London and said he would "respond positively" to the US initiative to obtain an Israeli redeployment in the West Bank.

Arafat and Blair discussed the US proposals to advance the peace process and ensure Israeli implementation of the redeployments in the territories. They also discussed a European Union plan to help the PA fight terrorism.

Arafat and his aides, who at first appeared skeptical of the idea, have now termed the London summit as a joint US-European Union effort to press Netanyahu to guarantee implementation of the interim accords.

"I would like to indicate once more that I will respond positively to the American ideas, as we have done before," Arafat said at a news conference in Gaza with Blair, in the Palestinian leader's most explicit support of Washington's informal plan. "We are waiting that this initiative be presented in public."

Arafat called his meeting with Blair "constructive, successful, and positive." PA officials said they are convinced the US and European Union are intent on achieving results on the Israeli-Palestinian track within the next few weeks.

Some officials predicted that the coordinated US-European efforts will force Netanyahu to increase his initial offer to hand over 9% of the West Bank to Palestinian rule.

Blair said at the news conference that the US would deal with the issues of Israeli withdrawal, while the Europeans would focus on economic issues.

PA officials appeared pleased with Blair's remarks and dismissed the assertion by Netanyahu that the London talks would focus on merely wrapping up the airport and industrial zone issues.

"This is a demand for Netanyahu to come up with ideas on how to implement the interim accords," PA negotiator and minister Saeb Erekat said.

Steve Rodan and Mohammed Najib contributed to this report.

## Mordechai: PA not cracking down enough on Hamas, Page 2

how much of this is the R&D cost.

"We agree that Israel needs a third Arrow battery to improve its defenses against missile attacks. That's why we are helping to develop the Arrow anti-theater ballistic system," Cohen said. "Israel is determined to be as strong and secure for the next 50 years as it has been for the last 50 years. The United States intends to do its part by helping Israel to maintain its qualitative edge. We want Israel to be strong so that it can continue to take risks for peace."

"It is not enough for Israel to be able to win wars," Cohen said. "It also must win peace in order to achieve lasting security."

Before the meeting, Cohen reviewed IDF troops at the Defense Ministry.

The honor guard for Cohen was moved from the traditional entrance plaza at the ministry to the rear, tree-lined garden. Strong winds tore down flags and flipped the red carpet, but the atmosphere warmed up with the arrival of Cohen, who was greeted with a bear hug from Mordechai.



British Prime Minister Tony Blair reviews a Palestinian Authority honor guard in Gaza City yesterday, escorted by PA Chairman Yasser Arafat. (AP)

## Suspect arrested in Na'an murder case

By MICHAEL YUDELMAN

Police have arrested a suspect in the murder of 23-year-old Yamit Regev, of Kibbutz Na'an, who was found dead just outside the kibbutz on April 12.

The suspect, who was arrested Sunday, was remanded for three days yesterday by the Ramle Magistrate's Court.

The court banned publication of any identifying details about the suspect, who, according to Channel 1, is not a kibbutz member.

Regev had spent the night of April 10-11 in the kibbutz pub. She parted from her friends there at 2 a.m. and then disappeared. Her parents thought she was with her boyfriend, while the boyfriend

thought she had decided to stay in her room on the kibbutz that night.

On April 11, when Regev failed to meet her family a massive search was launched, and her body was found the following day. Police investigation showed she had been raped and then murdered.

Police questioned various people, including foreign workers on the kibbutz, and took DNA samples from them.

The police intend to compare the suspect's genetic profile with the results of DNA tests performed by the Institute for Forensic Medicine at Abu Kabir on certain articles the murderer left at the scene of the crime.

The suspect was questioned the day Regev's body was found. He was summoned for further questioning on Sunday.

During his interrogation, the suspect asked to use the bathroom. When he did not return several minutes later, a policeman went to look for him and found he had fled the premises, leaving only his slippers.

The suspect was found shortly afterwards and held until he was brought to court yesterday.

## Rolls Royce, Iscar close to joint venture

By DAVID HARRIS

Rolls Royce PLC, Iscar and Blades Technologies are close to launching a joint venture for the fully automated production of airplane engine parts, Iscar's president Eitan Wertheimer told *The Jerusalem Post* yesterday.

Once the alliance is formed the companies will manufacture jet engine compressor blades for all types of aircraft. Wertheimer said the deal is initially worth \$40 million-\$50m, but that could rise to \$200m.

"It is still under discussion, so we can't reveal any details," said Wertheimer. "We're now on the final draft but you should know we've already been working together for many years."

The Tefen-based Iscar has been both a supplier and customer of Rolls Royce, but the deal, once signed, will cement their relationship.

"Our task is to bring new technology from Iscar into the game

that will make a much better quality of blade, with a far higher safety standard.

Everyone is currently busy working towards superior airplanes for the 21st century," said Wertheimer.

The blades would be constructed totally by machine, via a method developed by Iscar.

The production would take place in Tefen and at Hillington, near Glasgow, in Scotland.

Blades Technologies is a subsidiary of Iscar.

Rolls Royce company spokesman Peter Barnes-Wallis confirmed talks are ongoing but said "it's too early to declare the final outcome."

Rolls Royce's 1997 sales totaled \$4.3 billion (\$7.19b.) while the company achieved a record 34% share of the civilian aircraft engine market.

Production does not concentrate on one specific sector, but rather producing engines for all sizes of civilian and military aircraft, said Barnes-Wallis.

## Taking the fight against trash liter-ally

By LIAT COLLINS

These police officers are more likely to call out to criminals to "pick it up" rather than to drop what they are holding. And when they talk about keeping the streets clean, they are talking literally, or make that litter-ally.

These are the environmental law enforcers whose unit, the first of its kind, was inaugurated last night in Netanyahu.

Clearly police with a difference, they are uniformed volunteers in the Civil Guard working together with the Environment Ministry to enforce such legislation as anti-litter regulations and the Anti-Cruelty to Animals Law.

"The idea is public awareness, deterrence and enforcement," said Insp. Yoav Medina, in charge of environmental protection in the police. Medina and Dep Cmdr. Ido Guttman, head of the Police Patrol Division, initiated the project.

"We aim to involve the public

more in the community while at the same time helping to ease the load on the police, which can't always make these matters top priorities," Medina said.

The work might lack the glamour of police operations as seen on television — they will be dealing with offenders who sound their car horns late at night or throw cigarette stubs out of the window — but what it lacks in glory it gains in satisfaction, according to Medina.

In the first stage, the Netanyahu unit will comprise 100 uniformed volunteers, chosen from existing Civil Guard members, operating in a police vehicle marked "Civil Guard — Environment Unit." Those interested in joining the program can contact the Netanyahu Civil Guard. The age requirement is between 21 and 60.

The volunteers will undergo a short preparatory course of three meetings to learn environmental laws and the jurisdiction

of the Civil Guard. Afterwards, they will have the right to report and fine offenders. The green men and women in blue will operate alongside regular police officers and under the same jurisdiction.

Money from fines will be transferred to funds for preserving cleanliness and for the prevention of cruelty to animals, which help finance the enforcement work.

"This is a revolutionary, experimental program," said Medina. If the Netanyahu project is successful during its six-month trial period, it will be extended nationwide, he said.

"There might be a few problems to begin with, but I believe that in general people will learn what it's all about and we will live in a more pleasant environment with cleaner streets, less disturbances from noise and less cruelty," said Medina. "And the public can only benefit from that."

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## NEWS

in brief

## Med. forum plans anti-Israel resolution

The Foreign Ministry refused to comment yesterday on an anti-Israel resolution reportedly being drawn up by the Mediterranean Forum, an 11-nation body consisting of European and North African states meeting on Majorca. Reuters said a draft communication urges Israel to withdraw troops from "occupied Palestinian lands in compliance with the Oslo peace accords."

Foreign Ministry spokesman Aviv Shir-On said Israel is not represented at the conclave. "We do not comment about documents whose texts are based on press reports and which may not necessarily be adopted," he said. *Jay Bushinsky*

## Lebanese prisoners' detentions extended

Tel Aviv District Court President Judge Menahem Ilan yesterday extended by six months the detention of Sheikh Abdul Karim Obeid, Mustafa Dirani, his nephew, Rasan Dirani, and 18 other Lebanese citizens being held in administrative detention by order of the defense minister.

Obeid, a Hizbullah commander, has been held since 1989. Dirani, a former Amal security chief, has been held since 1994. They are being held to eventually exchange them for MIA's. *Itim*

## Gov't asks further delay on conversion reply

Attorney-General Elyakim Rubinstein yesterday petitioned the High Court of Justice to grant a delay of 45 days for the government to submit its reply to a petition by the Conservative movement and Na'amat concerning the registration as Jews of infants converted by the movement.

The infants, who were adopted by Israeli families abroad, were converted in a ceremony at Kibbutz Hanaton in February 1995.

The Conservative and Reform movements, which had deferred their court appeals while the committee was meeting, now assert that the committee made no proposals, since the Chief Rabbinate has since rejected the idea of cooperating with the non-Orthodox movements. *Haim Shapiro*

## Couple dies in Haifa crash

A couple in their 40's were killed and three youths were wounded in a head-on collision last night near the Abuza neighborhood of Haifa. No identities were given.

A Mercedes driven by the youths veered into oncoming traffic smashing into a Mitsubishi, killing two of its occupants instantly. The vehicle had to be taken apart for the bodies to be retrieved. *Itim*

## Settlers place caravans to protest murder

By MARGOT DUDKEVITCH

Settlers responded to Sunday's murder of Dov Driben, 29, at Moshav Maon by erecting two mobile caravans at the site early yesterday to show their Palestinian neighbors they will not be coerced into leaving the area. They vowed to establish a new neighborhood there.

The IDF beefed up its presence, closing off the area and roads leading to the farm, but permitted people to reach it on foot. Water and food were carried in by residents.

Judea and Samaria police spokesman Opher Sivan said police released two of the Palestinian shepherds arrested after the incident, but seven remain in custody. Sivan said police were still questioning witnesses and compiling information, but that there were no new developments.

He said the seven shepherds are all from Yatta in Area B, but not from the same clan, as reported in the media yesterday. Police Inspector-General Yehuda Wilk said the Palestinian Police had been asked to question the injured Palestinian in Aliya Hospital in

Hebron.

President Ezer Weizman paid a condolence visit to Driben's family at the farm. Arriving by helicopter, Weizman told Driben's wife, Adi, and his father, Eddy, that without a doubt the murder was carried out for nationalistic motives and not criminal ones. Weizman also asked the settlers to coordinate with the authorities and refrain from carrying out any illegal actions.

His remarks were positively received by many settlers, who strongly criticized the fact that the IDF, the General Security Service, and the police had ruled out Driben's murder as a terrorist attack, saying it was criminally motivated.

Minister of Internal Security Avigdor Kahalani said on Israel Radio that security forces believe Driben's murder was the result of a dispute and therefore the conclusions drawn pointed to criminal motives.

Palestinians set up a tent close to the site yesterday protesting the settlers' caravans.

MK Yossi Sarid (Meretz) accused the settlers of using the spilling of blood for their own political purposes.

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Daniel and Emily

Shiva at the Nystar residence, Moshav Sde Hemed  
Tel. 09-765-7527.

## Lebanon launches assault on 425

By DAVID RUDGE and news agencies

The Lebanese government is to launch a major diplomatic offensive today to counter Israel's proposal to pull the IDF out of the security zone in accordance with UN Security Council Resolution 425, Lebanese newspapers reported.

The counteroffensive was reportedly formulated and agreed upon during talks in Damascus last week between Syrian and Lebanese leaders.

According to the reports, Foreign Minister Farez Bouez is scheduled to hold meetings with ambassadors in Beirut of the five coun-

tries that are permanent members of the UN Security Council to explain Lebanon's rejection of Israel's 425 initiative.

The newspaper reports said that the Foreign Ministry is also preparing letters to be sent to UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan and US and French leaders.

This follows letters received by the Lebanese government from US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright and the French Foreign Ministry after visits to the US and French capitals by Israel's Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai.

According to the press reports, Bouez and Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Hariri also

intend to visit the capitals of leading western countries.

Bouez has denied that the US is putting pressure on Lebanon to accept Israel's proposal.

In a recent television interview with the Lebanese Broadcasting Corporation, Bouez maintained that Lebanon had received "signals that the Americans are not entirely convinced about Prime Minister Netanyahu's intentions" vis-à-vis the 425 proposal.

Meanwhile, a South Lebanese Army soldier was lightly wounded yesterday in a land mine blast in the Jezzine enclave region, north of the security zone.

The incident happened while SLA troops were patrolling the area. The wounded soldier was treated in the field and later taken to Marjayoun Hospital inside the zone.

On Sunday, a SLA soldier was wounded when Hizbullah gunmen fired mortars and rocket-propelled grenades at an SLA position in the western sector of the security zone.

The wounded soldier was later taken to Binti J'bail Hospital in the zone for further treatment.

The incident yesterday brought to 12 the number of SLA soldiers wounded in fighting in south Lebanon this year.

## Gov't slams illegal Arab building

By STEVE RODAN

Illegal Palestinian construction in areas of the West Bank under full control of Israel remains rampant and outpacing efforts to demolish the unlicensed structures, a security report says.

In a government study obtained by *The Jerusalem Post*, officials said in 1997 that 701 buildings were completed by Palestinians without licenses from the Civil Administration.

In the first three months of 1998, the study said, another 74 structures were built illegally by the Palestinians in Area C. The areas around Hebron and Ramallah led all other districts.

Israel obtained orders for the demolition of 615 of the illegal buildings completed in 1997 and 74 orders this year. Of the orders, 290 were executed, the study said.

The study said that government policy continues to be that of demolishing unlicensed Palestinian buildings in Area C. But the study added that such efforts would take into account Palestinian reaction.

The policy "would be according to the priorities that were set and the weekly assessments" taken by the IDF and Defense Ministry.

Israeli officials have charged the PA with encouraging illegal Palestinian construction in Area C in an attempt to predetermine final status talks on the future of the territories.



Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai (left) and US Defense Secretary William Cohen chat as they review an honor guard at the Defense Ministry in Tel Aviv yesterday. (Assaf Shilo/Israel Sun)

## Mordechai: PA not hard enough on Hamas

By ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai said yesterday that peace cannot progress with the Palestinians as long as the Palestinian Authority doesn't crack down hard enough on Hamas terrorists.

"The Palestinians are not doing what is necessary against terror in their territory. From time to time we find that there are more and

more terror groups in the areas of their jurisdiction," Mordechai said.

Speaking after meeting with visiting US Secretary of Defense William Cohen, Mordechai said that he had information that Hamas was able to regroup following the mysterious death last month of bomber Muhi Sharif in Ramallah.

He said that the short-term crackdown orchestrated by the PA security forces was wel-

come but it was not enough.

"I am glad that they have been doing more during the past few days, but they are not putting 100 percent into it and they are not doing what they have to do," Mordechai said.

"They need to fight against terror and the roots of terror all of the time. A peace agreement with the Palestinians can't be achieved if they won't fight against terror to eradicate terror," Mordechai added.

## Settlers assail open-fire rules

By MARGOT DUDKEVITCH and LIAT COLLINS

Dov Driben's murder on Sunday has generated fierce criticism from territories residents, who blame the State Attorney's Office and police for creating an atmosphere that forces settlers to think twice before firing their weapons.

Settlers declared yesterday that had Driben, Yehoshafat Tor, and Ephraim Pearl been less hesitant in using their weapons the results may have been different.

Shlomo Filber, head of security for the Council of Jewish Communities in Judea, Samaria, and Gaza said that had Driben used his gun against his attackers, his weapon would have been confiscated and charges brought against him. Settlers noted that

Tor, who suffered moderate wounds in the attack, recently had his weapon confiscated by police for firing in a populated area.

Judea and Samaria police spokesman Opher Sivan said Tor's weapon had been confiscated following previous clashes with Palestinians at the disputed sheep farm, during which he fired shots into the air to disperse them. Sivan said the charges had been dropped and Tor's weapon returned to him three months later.

However, residents said such actions cause them to think twice before opening fire when attacked. Beit El local council head Uri Ariel said on Israel Radio yesterday that settlers must defend themselves if their lives are in danger. "I would prefer to face the police and the General Security

Service rather than face death at the hands of Arab attackers," he said.

Council spokeswoman Yehudit Tayar said that several times she has hesitated in drawing her gun, because the thought of facing prison, being investigated, and having her weapon confiscated worried her more. "The question is if you have a gun will you use it or pay the consequences, as Dov and the others did because they hesitated to open fire," Tayar said.

The IDF regulations that allow citizens to fire warning shots into the air are acceptable.

Hebron Jewish community spokesman Noam Arnon said Sunday's incident only served to convince him of the necessity of carrying a weapon and he is considering applying for a permit.

Arnon charged there is one set of regulations for citizens living in Israel and another for settlers. "I am concerned that people will hesitate using their weapons, despite the fact that we stress the importance of abiding by IDF regulations and the law," he added.

MK Ehud Barak (Labor) said on Israel Radio that cold-blooded murder is unacceptable even if there was a land dispute. However, he added, the open-fire regulations allow citizens to defend themselves.

Speaking from his son's bedside, Ilan Tor said the fact that he, Driben, and Pearl had hesitated to open fire at their attackers only serves to highlight the severity of the dilemma they faced. "It appears the Arabs knew the boys would not open fire," he said.

At the Knesset yesterday, MK

Uzi Landau (Likud), chairman of the Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, said new thinking is required concerning regulations on opening fire. He said people are scared to shoot even when the situation and conditions justify it, because of the possible legal repercussions.

"I'm not saying we should necessarily change the regulations on opening fire, but we definitely must change the general atmosphere in Judea, Samaria, and Gaza - particularly that left over from the period of the previous attorney-general [Michael] Ben-Yair, who created special regulations for [territories] residents and created an atmosphere in which they are scared, like those subject to a witch-hunt by the judicial establishment... There is no doubt that not only the settlers, but also the soldiers feel the restrictions on them are too difficult," he said.

"There is a need to find the delicate balance between a complete ban on being trigger happy and on the other hand to allow people to defend themselves."

On the other hand, MK Ori Orr (Labor), a retired general and member of the Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, said there is no problem with the atmosphere and people are not scared to use their weapons. He said the regulations on opening fire should not be changed.

"Unfortunately, innocent people have been harmed as a result of the use of arms when they should not have been used," Orr said. "In [Sunday's] incident the problem was not opening fire, but an ongoing dispute."

integrated military relationship," Cohen said. "I believe that this relationship is strong and enduring."

Mordechai said he asked Cohen and the US to aid in improving Israel's military capabilities.

In a related matter, Cohen threw his support behind the government's acceptance of UN Security Council Resolution 425.

"I believe that his proposal is something Syria and Lebanon should respond positively to. It is an important initiative," Cohen said.

But Cohen said: "I am not sure the United States is in the position to put pressure on any country in this respect. The extent that we can encourage it we do so."

Batsheva Tsor adds:

President Ezer Weizman will join in the breakfast being hosted this morning for Cohen by Mordechai.

## Microsoft to help fund local computer projects

By NINA GILBERT

The government signed a declaration for cooperation yesterday with Microsoft Corp., which announced that it would donate software for a project to give computer access to the government, community centers and a private sector project to allow an E-mail address to every citizen.

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu met with Microsoft executive vice president Steve Ballmer at the Prime Minister's Office, where the two officially launched a project to make the government accessible via the Internet.

"This project will make life easier for citizens who today must stand in long lines to obtain government services," Netanyahu said. "The system will create contact between the government and the citizens."

The project, called HILA, an acronym for the government unit for Preparation of Israel for the Computer Era, will make its first demonstration in a network system to enable citizens to participate in the legislative process electronically.

Microsoft will also donate its software for use in 10 community centers to be established in under-

privileged areas, where residents will be able to use the Internet for free. The company will also fund a computer systems training program for 800 technicians at the centers.

"This is the best social program that the country can invest in," Netanyahu said.

Science Minister Michael Eitan said the program is key to closing social gaps, which are only made worse by the computer age. "The country's future is not in textiles, but in technology," he said.

Under the E-mail project, Bezeq, Netvision and Microsoft will make a Hebrew-language based E-mail service available to all those with telephone numbers.

Access will be through Bezeqnet's 135 service. Microsoft will give free copies of its Internet Explorer 4 and Microsoft Outlook to enable E-mail use in Hebrew. The account holders will be entitled to 12 free E-mail hours a year.

The companies said they expect to link some 2.6 million phone lines to the service by June.

Communications Minister Limor Livnat denied that the government's involvement with Microsoft was lending a hand to the expansion of the company's monopoly in the software market.

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## Hazardous materials spill in Ashdod port

By LIAT COLLINS and Nim

The three containers containing hazardous materials that fell off a ship as it was leaving Ashdod Port yesterday morning had apparently not been loaded properly, Environment Ministry officials said.

In one container there were 21 barrels, each holding 815 kilograms of methyl bromide, which can cause death if inhaled.

Eight of the barrels fell into the sea, where ministry divers inspected them and said there was no immediate risk they would leak. Two of those that fell on the dock, however, cracked and leaked, forcing workers to be evacuated until port and ministry staffers neutralized the gas.

The three containers came from the Bromide Industries, which took them back to the plant at Ramat Hovav to examine them for cracks.

A ministry spokeswoman said the incident is being investigated and charges would be filed if negligence is suspected.

In a separate incident yesterday, bathers had to be evacuated from Herzliya's Hanechim Beach when a pipeline carrying raw sewage burst and effluent flowed out at a rate of 250 cubic meters an hour

throughout the day.

The incident was apparently caused by the condition of the 40-year-old pipeline, but Environment Ministry officials complained that contractor sent to deal with the leak arrived late and without the necessary equipment.

Meanwhile, in Eilat, the Underwater Observatory has begun work to speed up the recovery of the corals damaged before Pessah when a tour boat crashed into the reef of the nature reserve.

Since the corals grow in nature at a rate of between 1 cm. to 6 cm. a year, it could take a century for the damage to be repaired. The Underwater Observatory is trying to grow some of the broken coral under laboratory conditions, to speed their growth before they are grafted back onto the reef.

Greenpeace Mediterranean this week said it will push the governments of the region to stop polluting the Mediterranean during the UN Year of the Oceans this year.

Greenpeace's coordinator in Tel Aviv, Ofer Ben-Dov, called on Israelis to sign a petition that demands the government stop marine pollution in accordance with the Barcelona Convention.

## Jubilee Bells to ring on schedule

By HELEN KAYE

Last month the Givat Ram Stadium in Jerusalem was an empty waste of melting slush. Yesterday, ringed by enough electrical generators to power a medium-size city, the stage and seating for Jubilee Bells was three-quarters complete.

The spectacle on Independence Day "will go on, on time and on budget," Jubilee Association general manager Doron Shmueli predicted confidently.

He also reiterated his claim that the event, budgeted at NIS 27 million "will cost considerably less than my revised forecast of NIS 21m."

President Ezer Weizman, US Vice President Al Gore and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu are among 4,000 dignitaries expected to attend the 30-minute opening ceremony, which will precede the 90-minute show.

The entire event will be broadcast live on Channels 1 and 2. All or part of the event is expected to be shown live or in magazine format in some 40 cities worldwide.

The impressive statistics for the country's biggest-ever national extravaganza include 1,000 technicians, 2,000 performers, a four-level 1,400 square meter stage lit by some 2,000 "smart" lights and more than 12,000 different set elements.

The performance itself is a cavalcade of Israel's first 50 years and features some of the country's most distinguished artists - from Yossi Banai and Dudu Fisher to the BatSheva Dance



A dance troupe practices for its performance at the main Independence Day celebration at Givat Ram Stadium in Jerusalem.

Company and Rita, who will step from a huge Magen David to sing "Hatikva."

Highlights include Tuvia Tsafir and Shoshana Damari in a colorful market scene, moving scenes and songs from the country's multi-ethnic immigrant groups. Ehud and Yuval Banai with Ethiopian, Arab and Druse musicians in a musical *haffa*, or celebration, and a celebration of Jerusalem on the three huge video screens, one of which is a circle 11 meters in circumference.

Producer Shuki Weiss denied last night's Channel 2 report that Irgunit, which has been charged with criminal negligence in last summer's Maccabiah bridge collapse, in which four members of the Australian Maccabiah team were killed, is building some of the facilities in the stadium.

"Irgunit has no connection whatsoever with any of the construction at the site," said Weiss, adding that the company's sole contribution has been some 100 foam rubber set pieces. Irgunit is one of

five local companies hired to provide stage services.

Weiss said the site has been constructed under "the most stringent safety conditions."

The construction is a joint undertaking between the US company, Stageco and its local affiliate, Talui. The work was done with the help of two crews of Belgian rigging technicians, supervised by Belgian engineers.

Earlier in the day Weiss had stressed that each completed section of the bleachers and stage was

checked for safety and that an overall safety clearance must be issued before the site can be opened to the public.

The public will enter through eight gates via 38 dedicated access lanes, and there are 10 additional emergency exits to accommodate the 12,000 ticket-holders.

A full audience based from Jerusalem's poorer neighborhoods will attend the April 27 dress rehearsal, and the 8,000 tickets to the event itself - priced from NIS 100-300 - are sold out.

## High Court nullifies Shas appointments to Beduin councils

By BAT-SHEVA TSUR and Nim

The High Court of Justice has cancelled three appointments to Beduin local councils in the Negev on the grounds that they were political and went to Shas supporters.

The Interior Ministry, headed by Eli Suissa of Shas, is responsible for appointing officials to local councils which are not functioning properly.

The appointments cancelled yesterday were those of Ilan Gamliel, brother of Deputy Religious Affairs Minister Arieel Gamliel, as head of the Ar'ara local council; and Haim Nahmani and Ya'acov Suderi as deputy heads of the Ar'ara and Hura local councils respectively.

In their petition, a group of residents from the two towns had also asked that the appointment of David Efrati as head of the Hura council be cancelled, but the court found no evidence that he was a political appointee or a party member and noted that the appointment had been made originally by Haim Ramon of Labor

when he was interior minister.

The petition was heard by Justices Shlomo Levin, Eliahu Mazza, and Eliezer Goldberg. They noted in their ruling that there was clear evidence the three appointments were political.

At a press conference in September 1996, Suissa had been asked why he had filled these positions with political cronies.

"Who do you want me to appoint - members of the Likud?" Suissa replied at the time.

The judges noted that Suissa had thus openly confirmed that he had chosen these candidates on a political basis. Nevertheless, they pointed out that "no one doubted the honesty, abilities, or suitability of the three to serve in the positions."

An additional request to cancel the appointments of six other persons to the same two councils - on the grounds they were not local residents - was dismissed by the court. It ruled that the law requiring a councillor to be a resident of the town in which he serves applies only with regard to elected officials.

## New program monitors doctors' prescriptions

By JUDY SIEGEL

A Hebrew/English computer program developed by Haifa's Bnai Zion Hospital and the Megacode software company could prevent thousands of "adverse drug events" each year in hospitals and health fund clinics, some of which can cause serious side effects, even death.

The program was initiated by Prof. Arie Oliven, head of the Internal Medicine B department at the government hospital, and was installed on Bnai Zion's server in January. All physicians in the department - most of whose patients are elderly, chronically ill, and consumers of a wide variety of medications - order drugs for patients via four terminals in the doctors' meeting room.

Oliven said that in the US, an estimated 100,000 die each year from improper use of medications - either those erroneously prescribed because they conflict with existing prescriptions, or those mistakenly given to patients because the pharmacist or nurse couldn't read the doctor's handwriting.

Oliven said there are no corresponding local statistics, but there have been reports of a doctor sentenced to five months in prison

because he prescribed the wrong dose for a patient causing his death.

It is estimated that 6 percent of hospital patients have suffered from "adverse drug events" and that these are most common in internal medicine departments. While some drug interactions cannot be avoided, harm to the patient could be prevented in about a quarter of the cases, Oliven said.

The program allows only authorized department physicians to prescribe drugs by keying in a code number when entering the program. When a drug is prescribed, the computer prints out copies of the name for the nurse, thus preventing errors from the process of copying it into files and instructions. The program automatically informs the doctor of the typical dosage and refuses to go ahead if the dose is very different from that.

Since the patient's medical history and the other drugs he is taking are stored, the program warns about allergies to this or similar medications and conflicts among drugs, along with medical tests that have to be conducted to monitor the drugs' effects. It also points out medications available for the same condition and suggests cheaper alternative drugs, if they are equivalent to that being prescribed.

## Court upholds eviction of Moslems from Jaffa shrine

By HAIM SHAPIRO

The Tel Aviv District Court yesterday upheld an eviction order obtained by the Israel Lands Administration against a Moslem group that broke into the House of Simon the Tanner in Jaffa, claiming it was a mosque. The group must now leave the building.

A large number of Jaffa Moslems were present in the court and some protested vocally when the court issued its ruling.

After the War of Independence, the site, which is associated with a New Testament miracle, had come under the authority of the Custodian of Abandoned Property, which in turn handed it over to the Israel Lands Administration. The ILA retained

as caretakers the Zacharian family, which had been installed as custodians by the Turkish authorities nearly a century before, in 1860.

The members of the Moslem group in February sawed through a set of iron window bars and occupied a room which had a *mihrab*, a Moslem prayer niche. They erected a wooden barrier separating them from the rest of the structure, which is often visited by Christian groups.

Uri Mor, director of the department for Christian communities in the Religious Affairs Ministry, expressed satisfaction with the ruling, but added he would not be surprised if the Moslem group did not appeal to the High Court of Justice.

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Project	Location	Description
Holiday Village	Lake Montfort, Ma'alot	Private vacation apartment complex, 450 rooms in 3 stages. Can be split among a number of investors
B-class hotel	Lake Montfort, Ma'alot	200 rooms and conference hall
A-B class hotel	Nazareth city center	200 rooms, middle of hotel district, overlooking Old City
Hotel	Acre	200 rooms, superb location within the walls of the Old City, next to the Halls of the Knights
Motel	Rosh Pina	84 rooms, excellent location at Rosh Pina junction
Hotel	Rosh Pina	Refurbishing and redecorating the Schwartz Hotel, the first hotel built in Galilee, by Baron Rothschild
Timeshare hotel	Tiberias	A-B class hotel next to the Sea of Galilee
Hotel	Tiberias	Sports, leisure and entertainment facilities
Zoo	Karmiel	80 dunam site, plus attractions and hands-on activities
Vacation and sports center	Golani junction	Shops and sports facilities surrounding motels
Holiday village	Betzet beach	120 rooms, shops, sports facilities
Country Club	Migdal Ha'emek	Sports and leisure facilities on a 17 dunam site
Holiday village	Kibbutz Ma'ayan Baruch	80 rooms, camp site, restaurant (two-stage project)
Holiday village	Kibbutz Kfar Szold	80 rooms, restaurant and pool, next to Banias River
Holiday village	Yavne'el	240 holiday units, on 40 dunams of mountain rock
Tourism and vacation center	Kiryat Shmona	Hotel, amusement park and adventure hikes
Hotel and vacation center	Naftali mountains	Overlooking the Hula valley
Visitor's center	Koach Fort	Information and guidance center for tourists
Hotels and Visitor's center	Nazareth Illit	Hotels - total of 3,000 rooms plus attractions
Retail		
Entertainment & comm. center	Lake Montfort	Restaurants, craft shops, and banqueting halls
Commercial area	Nazareth (Old City)	Restaurants, coffee shops and souvenir shops
Commercial center	Rosh Pina Junction	Areas for shops and services for motorists
Commercial center & Sheltered Housing	Migdal Ha'emek	14 dunam project, including shops, municipality building and sheltered housing for seniors
Road service center	Yavne'el	Shops and services for motorists
Market	Migdal Ha'emek	Franchise for construction of 6 dunam, 250 stall market
Industry		
Project	Location	Description
Industrial Park	Lower Galilee, Acre South, Safed-Hatzor-Rosh Pina, Alon Tavor, Bar-Lev (Ahihud junction), Teradon Misgav, Ma'alot, Zipporit, Goren, Kiryat Shmona, Tel-Hai Industrial Park	Environmentally clean and hi-tech plants

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NB: All projects are under the auspices of the relevant local authority.

## THE GALILEE, WAY ABOVE THE REST



## Cassandra calling

Not that anyone will listen, but it's time to say it again: The next Iraq crisis is on the way.

Oh well, "columnist as Cassandra" is part of the job. A few clarifications on Cassandra — now invariably synonymous with doom merchant, party pooper, enough of the whining already.

In Greek legend (and she appears too in Shakespeare's *Troilus and Cressida*) Cassandra was the daughter of Priam and Hecuba of Troy. She was born with the gift of prophecy, but unfortunately she was also disheveled enough to attract the unwanted attentions of Apollo, the Mister Who-Loves-Himself of the gods.

They didn't have sexual harassment suits in those days, but Cassandra said "no" anyway. The Greek divine chauvinist couldn't take away her job (prophecy) but he could ruin her career. He "fixed it" so that her prophecies would continue to be accurate, but no one would believe them.

Although not Christian, Cassandra was later adopted by newspaper columnists as their patron saint. That was before they realized there is a bonus Cassandra curse called the "Yeah? Great!"

What'd he say?

It works this way. A journalist makes a well-informed prediction, the duly warned reader reads the first paragraph, yawns "whatever" and turns to the Yankee game. Three weeks later the prediction comes true and the journalist foolishly starts spreading the word: "I wrote this three weeks ago."

The amazed masses yawn again and say "Yeah? Great!" but only until the prophet is out of earshot, at which point it becomes "So what! What an idiot!"

I know of one journalist who accurately predicted the 1990 Iraqi invasion of Kuwait three months before it happened. He had a brief 15 minutes of fame when someone stuck his prediction on the newsroom notice board during the invasion and the "Yeah? Great!" responses sounded really sincere, but no one in the Kuwait-war media frenzy cited him in their reports.

He later took a leave of absence to finish an MA to enhance his career, and then returned to his old newsroom to apply for a new position. He mentioned *en passant* his brief moment as a journalistic Nostradamus. By then it had become a forgotten "whatever!" He exited office, home and state into oblivion. A muttered and unheard "idiot!" wafted after his heels.

He did no better at all than my all-time favorite grade-F prophet from the same period. It was our own City Lights newspaper which carried a last-minute assurance from a clairvoyant that

no Scuds at all would hit Israel in the coming Gulf War. City Lights hit the news stand about four hours after the first Scud salvo hit Tel Aviv. "Yeah? Great!"

Predictable Idiots

One only has to pause and think for a moment and it becomes obvious that prophecy throughout history has been the domain of idiots. They are idiotic enough to believe that because the masses are fascinated with prophecy, they will treat prophets as superstars. What do they profit a prophet to stroll up to someone and say "give up, on the morrow shalt thou be a big loser" if the prophet cannot predict the response to his prophecy.

According to the Koran, there have been 200,000 prophets, but only six of them changed the way people think about existence: Adam, Noah, Abraham, Moses, Jesus and (of course) Mohammed. That's five from the Bible, one from the New Testament, and one — (of course). Sorry about that, Confucius, Buddha, Cassandra, and the Delphic oracles.

Of course in scriptural terms, prophecy originally was not about picking lottery numbers anyway. As the Oxford dictionary rightly explains, a prophet was "an inspired teacher, revealer or interpreter of God's will."

Today, predicting events is as thankless a task as it ever was. Strictly speaking, stock market analyses, weather forecasts, asteroid-collision predictions, and Saddam-watching are not vatic activities, since they are interpretations of scientific data.

Million-man march

But woe betide the forecasters who get it wrong. Russian politicians last week were calling for the heads of meteorologists who predicted spring weather and left Moscow unprepared for the snow blizzards that struck suddenly. On the other hand, woe betide anyone who tries to bring bad news to a wedding party or a bull market.

The gloomy medieval names of Jeremiah, Cassandra and Nostradamus hang as heavy as wet blankets over the heads of anyone who says the United States is suffering from economic hubris and a big fall is on the way, or that Saddam Hussein will have this neurotic state clamoring for gas masks "ere long."

It's all good fun, until it turns nasty (so keep an eye on what those million Iraqi volunteers parading for six hours last week might mean.)

In 1993, *Entertainment Weekly* dismissed a new TV pilot with the brash assurance of the expert with vatic powers. "This one's a goner for sure," it wrote of the *X-Files* creator Chris Carter's new series *Millennium* as if it were the second coming that would forever change mankind. *Millennium*? Yeah? Great! Whatever.

Column One



Thomas O'Dwyer

# Is the Big Apple rotting?

By JOE MATHEWS

NEW YORK — Wednesday morning, Andrea Soren-Miller buttoned her Derek Jeter jersey, tugged on her Yankees cap and walked toward the Shea Stadium numskules. She couldn't help but rub her eyes.

"I can't believe it: the Yanks playing a home game on the Mets field," the 26-year-old store manager said. "The sky really is falling."

In New York, it certainly looks that way. A 500-pound steel beam that fell out of Yankee Stadium's upper deck last week rocked an already shaky city. The 75-year-old ballpark has closed indefinitely for inspections, the Bronx Bombers had to play the Angels on Wednesday in Queens, and New Yorkers everywhere are talking about the latest piece of Big Apple architecture to come crashing down to the ground.

In the past five months, two pedestrians have been killed and three injured by falling building facades, a string of accidents city officials call unprecedented.

Among the miseries: — In December, falling brick facades shut down part of Madison Avenue for 12 days during the height of the Christmas shopping season.

— Earlier this year, a water main break opened a block-long crater that closed a section of Fifth Avenue for a month. A gas leak created a torch of fire higher than the street lights.

— Falling bricks from a Brooklyn school renovation site killed a 16-year-old girl in January.

— Last weekend, a crowd of pedestrians in Times Square narrowly escaped a sheet of metal that fell from more than 10 stories above.

— April 9 in lower Manhattan, Chinese immigrant Li Ting Wen, 32, was hit when a 6-by-25-foot section of stucco suddenly dropped off a Bowery building onto the sidewalk as she walked below. She died Saturday night.

An alarmed Mayor Rudolph Giuliani ordered city inspectors to examine every building in New York that is at least a century old.

"Why deny it? The city's infrastructure is crumbling," says Herbert Berman, chairman of the City Council's finance committee.

"It's the 21st century, and our buildings haven't been updated since



New Yorkers everywhere are talking about the latest piece of Big Apple architecture to come crashing down to the ground: A 500-pound steel beam fell out of Yankee Stadium's upper deck, closing the 75-year-old ballpark indefinitely for inspections. (AP)

the 19th. We've got schools we want to put computers into, but we have to electrify the building first."

These infrastructure problems highlight the successes of New York in the '90s even as they literally expose the cracks in the Giuliani administration's vaunted turnaround.

The mayor's successes in combating crime have helped attract waves of new immigrants and tourists to New York, putting greater pressure than ever before on the city's roads, subways and schools. But in devoting so many resources to police,

Giuliani has been forced to cut funds for nearly every other part of government, notably road maintenance, building inspections and school construction.

"We don't worry as much anymore about crime or people doing harm to you," says Ada Garcia, 54, a PTA president in Brooklyn. "It's the building above your head that could kill you."

Most of New York City's 80,000 or so buildings were constructed between the Civil War and World War II, and many are badly in need of repair.

According to the nonprofit Citizens Budget Commission, nearly half the bridges in the city fail to meet federal safety standards.

The apocalyptic-minded can see signs of doom everywhere. Waterfront development has been stymied by crumbling piers, and the pace of pothole-filling has slowed badly in the past two years, city sta-

tistics show. The Staten Island Ferry has broken down so often that *Titanic*-added commuters began complaining that the vessels don't have enough lifeboats.

"It's been a weird year," says Paul Millman, a principal with Superstructures Engineers + Architects. "Some of this is coincidence."

But most of all it's that New York is so old. And since the city is doing well, there's more new construction and renovation, and that disturbs the old facades.

A recent *Daily News* headline screamed: "Watch Out!" The greatest caution may be needed in schools, City Councilman Sheldon Lefler says. Nearly half the city's school buildings need replacement or renovation.

Michael Casey, a Bronx elementary school teacher, has taken to wearing a hard hat since he was struck by falling glass from school windows that were condemned as too dangerous in 1989.

At PS 65 in the heavily Dominican neighborhood of East New York, Brooklyn, principal Porfirio Plasencia keeps a close eye on the coal furnace, one of hundreds still operating in city schools. Fumes from a similar furnace led to the closing of a Queens school in February, and some of PS 65's parents blame this heating system for their children's asthma.

"Sometimes I wonder," Plasencia says, "how long it will be before this whole thing falls apart." (The Baltimore Sun)

## Lisbon expects millions at Expo '98

By RICHARD WADDINGTON

LISBON — The wind howling off Lisbon's River Tagus rattles the walkway to the giant aquarium centerpiece of the Expo '98 world fair, and nearly blows away the calm words of optimism of the show's organizer.

The launch of the biggest event ever mounted by Portugal is only a month away, but Expo commissioner Jose Torres Campos is not ruffled by either the unseasonably cool weather or the amount of work still to do.

As electric drills and hammers pound away in the background,

the man at the helm of the world's last major exhibition of the 20th century says that everything will be shipshape for the official opening on May 21.

"This was a very well-programmed project and I have never lost any sleep over it," Torres Campos said.

Spain's King Juan Carlos, Indian President K.R. Narayanan and Japan's Emperor Akihito are among foreign dignitaries expected to join Portuguese President Jorge Sampaio for the inauguration of the world fair which will run until the end of September.

Dedicated to the world's oceans,

Expo '98 marks the 500th anniversary of the discovery by Portuguese navigator Vasco da Gama of the sea route to India — an event which revolutionized international trade in late medieval Europe.

To the untrained eye there is much to be done before Expo '98 throws open its doors to the more than eight million visitors — many of them from abroad — expected during the four months it will be open.

The finishing touches are being put to the main attractions, including the \$65 million Oceans Pavilion, Europe's largest aquarium, which will be home to 250

different species of fish and sea creatures.

Around them, workmen are still clearing the ground for the gardens and parks that will dot the 340-hectare site occupying a formerly derelict stretch of waterfront to the east of Lisbon.

"This is nothing," said Torres Campos of the tasks remaining. "It is as easy as rolling out a carpet."

Organizers say that advanced ticket sales have gone well as the normally laid-back Portuguese throw off the habit of a lifetime and opt not to leave everything to the last minute.

Torres Campos said that

between 20 and 25 percent of the expected visits — which should total some 16 million with people likely to come back for a second look — have already been taken up. The exhibition harks back to one of the most illustrious periods in the history of this sea-faring nation perched on the southwest corner of Europe.

But the enthusiasm with which Expo '98 is being greeted could reflect another moment of great national pride — Portugal's success in winning a place in the European Union's single currency.

See EXPO, Page 7

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# Dissident's release part of secret US-China deal

By JIM MANN

WASHINGTON (LA Times) — China's release of student leader Wang Dan represents one of the last steps in an extensive package deal secretly negotiated earlier this year by the Clinton administration and the Chinese government, according to administration officials and Chinese sources.

The deal, which set the stage both for President Clinton's visit to China in June and for Wang's release, was reached during a clandestine mission to Beijing on the weekend of March 7-8 by three Clinton administration officials.

"Let's just say we weren't surprised," said one administration official, who said China freed Wang this weekend and allowed him to fly into exile in the United States.

A detailed reconstruction of the negotiations by the *Los Angeles Times* underscores that the freeing of dissidents has become a regular element of US-China diplomacy. Before or after each new step in Sino-American relations, the United States seeks the release of dissidents, and China seeks concessions in return.

Throughout the 1990s, China has extracted from the United States an unfolding array of benefits — including trade preferences, relaxed economic sanctions and high-level visits — in exchange for freeing troublesome dissidents from its prisons. In some instances, China has won concessions for the same dissident twice — by freeing him, re-arresting him and freeing him again.

The recent series of negotiations also raises questions about the wisdom of winning the release of dissidents only if they agree to

leave the country.

The Northwest Airlines flight from Beijing to Detroit that Wang Dan took might well be dubbed the "nonstop to exile." It is the same flight onto which Wei Jingsheng, China's most famous dissident, was escorted when he was freed from nearly two decades in Chinese prisons last November.

"We're delighted that Wang Dan is free, but we will only be able to say that the human rights situation in China has improved when people like Wang Dan are able to call for political change without fear of being sent to a labor camp or charged with endangering state security," said Sidney Jones of the New York-based Human Rights Watch.

The maneuvering for Wang's freedom, according to American and Chinese sources familiar with the negotiations, began almost as soon as Wei won his release made Wang Dan, the best-known dissident still confined in China's prison system — and thus the next subject of Sino-American bargaining.

On the day Wei was set free, White House Chief of Staff Erskine Bowles announced on nationwide television that Clinton wanted to meet with the freed dissident — a rendezvous that the Chinese government immediately tried to block.

A Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman expressed "strong indignation" that the president would receive "a criminal" in the White House. Chinese officials hinted that intense publicity for Wei could jeopardize the release of other dissidents.

Clinton went ahead and met with Wei, but in a low-key manner, avoiding posing for photographers or other actions that would attract attention to the meeting.

By the beginning of 1998, administration officials had started planning for a possible Clinton trip to China. "We're assuming it's November," said one State Department official in February.

But sometime during the first eight weeks of the year, Clinton and his top advisers moved up the China trip to June.

Exactly why remains unclear. Several people directly involved in diplomacy with China, especially US Ambassador to China James Sasser, urged an early trip to maintain what they said was the momentum of diplomacy established during the summit meeting in Washington last fall between Clinton and Chinese President Jiang Zemin.

Moreover, the Monica Lewinsky controversy was at its feverish peak in Washington at the time, and the trial of the Paula Jones sexual harassment suit (later dismissed) was scheduled for late spring.

Three Clinton administration officials — Sandra Kristoff and Jeffrey Bader of the National Security Council and Deputy Secretary of State Susan Shirk — made a preliminary trip to Beijing in early February to try to prepare the groundwork for a summit.

On March 7, the three officials again left Washington for Beijing. This time, their mission was secret, not announced in either country.

They carried a detailed message from the White House. Clinton, they said, was prepared to visit China in June, earlier than expected, and also was willing to drop the long-standing American support for a UN resolution condemning China's human rights record.

The three administration negotiators said Clinton was ready to abandon the United States' eight-



Wang Dan (left) undergoes an eye examination in Detroit, where he arrived Sunday following his surprise release by Chinese authorities. Officials say the release followed a clandestine mission to Beijing last month by three US officials. (AP)

year campaign against China at the UN Human Rights Commission.

Clinton wanted China to make some concessions in return. One was an agreement to sign the UN Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. The other was the release of dissidents. And Wang Dan was at the top of the list of political prisoners the United States would free.

At first, the US negotiators met with members of China's Foreign Ministry and State Council, but eventually Vice Premier Qian

Qichen, who is now in charge of China's foreign policy, became involved.

In a one-on-one meeting with Qian, Kristoff is reported to have said that Clinton needed to know what steps China would take if the US abandoned the UN resolution. Qian said the administration could have confidence China would reciprocate.

Some of the steps in the deal were quickly completed and made public. On March 12, Qian announced that China planned to sign the rights

covenant. More than a month later, however, the Chinese regime has not yet done so, and human rights activists say they believe that even when China signs, it may reserve the right not to honor some of the agreement's provisions.

Within a day, on March 13, senior administration officials had dropped the bombshell that the US would abandon the UN resolution condemning China.

"I think there will be further releases of political prisoners,"

one of the administration's senior foreign policy officials told reporters that day. Without mentioning Wang Dan, he clearly left the impression that Wang would be released soon.

It is not evident yet whether Wang is the only dissident who will be released before the June summit. Mike Jendrzyszczak, another Human Rights Watch official, said Sunday that administration officials "are hoping and expecting further releases."

## Militants kill 29 villagers in Kashmir Australian farmers threaten use of force as unions seal ports

By ASHOK PAHALWAN

JAMMU, India (Reuters) — Suspected separatist terrorists shot dead 29 people in an attack on a Kashmiri village, Indian security officials said yesterday.

The dead, mostly Hindus, included 12 children, a Border Security Force (BSF) official said in Jammu.

No group has claimed responsibility for the Friday night attack at Dhakikot, about 185 kilometers from Jammu, winter capital of Jammu and Kashmir.

Authorities had earlier put the toll at 13.

The killings shattered a fragile peace that authorities had said had returned to the Himalayan province after years of bloody separatist rebellion.

"All the four Hindu families in the village had been gunned down and their houses set ablaze in the midnight operation," the BSF official said. Reports on the shootings were "delayed because of the remoteness of the area."

The BSF official said the killings took place at a time when

15 terrorists were holed up in a cave for three days in a nearby village after an encounter with security forces.

"The colleagues of this group had resorted to killing these innocent people in retaliation for our action and to break our cordia," the official said.

Jammu and Kashmir chief minister Farooq Abdullah asked the federal government to provide additional troops to plug the porous border with Pakistan.

Abdullah blamed Pakistan, which routinely denies frequent

Indian charges of fomenting militancy in the state, of triggering the killings.

India controls two-thirds of the disputed region, while Pakistan controls the rest.

"The gruesome killing of the innocent people will continue here until the borders are not completely sealed off," Abdullah told reporters after visiting Dhakikot.

More than 25,000 people have been killed in Jammu and Kashmir since the rebellion started in 1990.

By MARK BENDEICH

MELBOURNE (Reuters) — Australian farmers threatened yesterday to breach a crippling union blockade of the nation's ports by driving their own trucks through picket lines.

Groups representing farmers nationwide issued the threat as Australia's most divisive industrial dispute in decades choked some of the nation's biggest container terminals.

"We'll bring the farmers down to drive the trucks through if we have to," National Farmers Federation president Don McGauchie told reporters.

Any intervention by the farmers would inevitably escalate the dispute, which has seen a tense standoff between police, pickets and non-union dockers but no serious violence so far.

In a measure of farmers' frustration, the left-wing premier of Australia's most populous state, New South Wales, was blocked by farmers at an outbreak airport.

Premier Bob Carr left Wagstaff airport, in the far northwest of the state, two hours late after police had to move farmers blocking the road.

Carr at the airport terminal. Carr has been a vocal supporter of 1,400 dockers sacked by a stevedoring firm out to break the Maritime Union of Australia's (MUA) grip on the waterfront.

As US longshoremen threatened a boycott of Australian farm produce, farmers swung behind the NFF.

"I think Mr. McGauchie would be knocked down in the rush if he called for volunteers among farmers," United Graziers Association

(UGA) official Noel Kennedy said.

"I've got an unlimited number of trucks and people waiting to move," added Barry Court, a farm leader in Western Australia state.

Around 10,000 containers are stranded on the wharves of Australia's second-biggest port operator, Patrick Stevedores, which two weeks ago sacked its entire union workforce and hired non-union labor to replace them.

McGauchie said agricultural goods, such as beef, cotton, mung beans and wine needed to get on to the wharves and be exported, while other goods such as chemicals and spare parts needed to be moved off the wharves and on to farms.

Since the April 7 sackings, Patrick has been handling ships at all its docks but has been unable to move unloaded containers off the wharves due to union blockades.

Patrick has also been unable to truck or rail-freight export containers into the docks. It also faces the possibility of an international boycott after reported pledges of support from unions in Japan, the United States and elsewhere.

After a meeting with the US ambassador, Foreign Minister Alexander Downer said he was confident that a call for a US consumer boycott would go unheeded.

The president of the US International Longshore and Warehouse Union, Brian McWilliam, told Australian radio

that his members had pushed for a boycott in both the United States and Canada of Australian beef and produce.

The MUA, which had a monopoly on container-terminal labor until Patrick's dramatic move, has said the sackings were part of a union-busting conspiracy by Patrick, the farmers' lobby and the conservative government.

The Federal Court in Melbourne delayed a provisional ruling on the conspiracy allegation, but Patrick won a legal victory when another Melbourne court ordered the MUA to abandon picket lines in the southern state of Victoria.

Analysts say the dispute has not yet harmed the Australian economy, but could take about a quarter of one percent off growth and threaten export contracts if it drags on.

Most of Australia's main export commodities — wheat, coal, sugar, base metals — are shipped in bulk, not in containers.

Wool, cotton and dairy products are more vulnerable.

South Australian tuna farmers said yesterday export earnings from Japan's sashimi market were under threat because 130 containers full of frozen pilchards used to feed the fish were blocked on the wharves.

If the pilchards remain blocked, the farmers may have to liquidate stocks in one go, forcing the price of tuna to plummet.

"It is a potential disaster," Tuna Boat Owners Association president Brian Jeffries told Reuters.

By FELIX ONIAH

MAIDUGURI, Nigeria (Reuters) — Nigerian military ruler Gen. Sani Abacha yesterday won a crucial party vote which means he will face no opponent in presidential elections planned for August 1.

The Grassroots Democratic Movement (GDM), at a ballot in the northeastern town of Maiduguri, became the fifth of five parties to adopt Abacha after hours of bitter wrangling over whether he was eligible given that he is not a party member.

"The total vote scored by Gen. Sani Abacha is 1,368, while Mohammed Yusuf scored a total vote count of 408. By this result Gen. Sani Abacha is now the winner," said the GDM's Mohammed Gumel announcing the result.

In the final ballot, Abacha faced only former police chief Yusufu. Lagos lawyer Tunji Braithwaite withdrew after the party's constitution was modified to accommodate Abacha, while a third con-

tender failed to secure nomination. "I am a winner always, but in this case I am out," Yusufu, clearly unhappy, told reporters after the vote.

Before the ballot, armed riot police were brought in to quell shouts of "We don't want cheating. We don't want Abacha" from Yusufu's supporters.

Abacha's victory is bound to intensify cries of foul from local opposition and democracy groups, which already dismiss the transition plan for restoring democracy to the oil-producing country of at least 104 million.

Western countries have hung the threat of a possible extension of military sanctions over Nigeria unless a semblance of democracy is restored this year.

Abacha, 54, has not yet said he will contest the poll, but a vast campaign on his behalf has left few Nigerians in doubt that he hopes to move from military to civilian rule as most of his fellow West African rulers have done.

The plan to restore civilian rule

has come under fire from local democracy campaigners and supporters of detained presidential claimant Moshood Abiola, the presumed winner of the last presidential poll, annulled by the army in 1993.

Western countries are also skeptical of Abacha's democratic credentials and demand the release of dozens of political detainees, including Abiola, who was arrested in 1994 for declaring himself president.

Nigeria's main opposition group, the United Action for Democracy (UAD), on Sunday called on Nigerians to boycott all elections under a transition program, starting with April 25 national assembly polls.

"Abacha has commenced the definitive stages of his self-transformation agenda via the process of stage-managed endorsement by political parties," a statement from the UAD in the southwestern opposition stronghold of Lagos said.

"Unless the Abacha transition program is halted through demo-

cratic mass action, the nation will be presented with a disastrous fait accompli."

Mass protests against Abacha have dwindled in the face of police suppression and the detention or flight into exile of key leaders.

Opposition sentiment remains strongest in Abiola's southwestern homeland, where two anti-Abacha protesters were shot dead by police in the city of Ibadan last Wednesday. Abacha is from the north.

The southwest is also the home region of Abacha's former deputy Lieut.-Gen. Oladipo Diya and other generals who have been on trial for plotting to stage a coup and face possible execution by firing squad if found guilty.

Politics is seen as an expensive luxury by many Nigerians, who remember the 1993 election fiasco and face a daily struggle to survive economic hardship — which some economists blame on the mismanagement of oil revenues by successive army governments.

### EXPO

Continued from Page 6

The formal announcement of which European states will take part in economic and monetary union (EMU) will be made at the start of next month but there is no doubt that Portugal has qualified.

Lisbon hotels are already packed and foreign visitors to the opening days of the exhibition, at least, are having to look further afield for somewhere to stay, tour operators say.

There is no doubt that the Oceans Pavilion, designed by British-born architect Peter Chermayeff, who was also responsible for the world's biggest aquarium in Osaka, Japan, will be the largest single draw.

Set in the middle of a small harbor, the building itself has a nautical air with an undulating, wave-like glass roof supported by steel masts and hawsers.

Inside are four separate tanks with species and fauna from the world's four oceans with a central aquarium — a design which symbolizes the essential unity of the world's seas.

Other main sites include a historical look at man and his relations with the sea, its myths and legends, and a multi-media Pavilion of the Future, focusing on the use of the sea and its resources.

More than 150 countries will also be present with pavilions that take the seas and oceans as their theme.

World fairs are usually held every five years but Portugal was given special permission to stage its Expo to coincide with the anniversary of Da Gama's historic voyage. The next world fair is due to be held in the German city of Hannover in 2000.

The UN declared 1998 the year of the oceans and a special commission under the chairmanship of former Portuguese president Mario Soares is due to deliver a report to the world body during the course of the exhibition.

"The main message of Expo is that oceans are an important thing for all humanity. We have to exploit the things that the oceans offer, but we have to do it in such a way as to preserve them," said Torres Campos.

Towering above the exhibition site will be a 70-metre monument to Da Gama, whose feat went virtually unmarked in his home country for centuries. Portugal boasted only one small statue of him in the southern port of Sines, his birth place.

But all that is being put right in the space of a few weeks, with the Vasco Da Gama tower due to remain after the exhibition closes down and with his name also given to a new bridge — Europe's longest

— recently opened across the Tagus. The voyage of Christopher Columbus, whose discovery of the Americas was the theme of Spain's Universal Exhibition in Seville in 1992, may be more celebrated, but for many historians Da Gama's had the greater immediate impact on the people of his time.

The two Iberian exhibitions have the sea in common, but the canny Portuguese have taken care to learn from the Spanish experience. Years after the close of the Seville extravaganza, there are still arguments over its funding, and many of the once glorious buildings are mere empty shells, home to down-and-outs and drug addicts.

The Expo '98 will be more than just a temporary show. All the main exhibition sites, including the Oceans Pavilion, will continue in use after the fair closes on September 30.

The country's national industrial exhibition organization will take over a large swathe of the individual country pavilions for a new permanent site.

The whole area is also the focus for a residential development which is transforming a rundown and once-polluted stretch of river into a humming new social hub.

"This is much more than just an exhibition. It is a massive redevelopment project for Lisbon," said Torres Campos. (Reuters)

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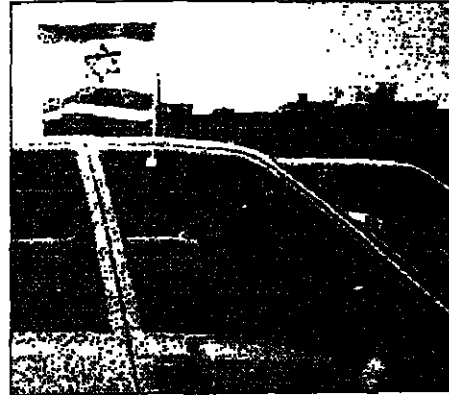
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### WWII victims given a proper burial

Former inmates of the Nazi concentration camp at Sachsenhausen near Berlin bury a coffin with the remains of 26 victims of the camp this week. The bodies, believed to be East European and French prisoners, were found recently during digging on the grounds of a former airplane factory which employed slave labor from nearby Sachsenhausen. (AP)

# Reforms help reverse India's brain drain

Better living standards are encouraging many Indian scientists and engineers, who are already well established overseas, to return home

By T.S. GOPI RETHINARAJ

BOMBAY - For many years India watched helplessly as its best scientific and engineering talent, fostered at great expense to the state, fled the country for better prospects abroad.

But rapid electronic communications and career openings created by accelerating economic reform have helped to turn the tide, analysts say.

The reform process has resulted in better living standards encouraging many Indians well established overseas to take the plunge and return home, analysts told Reuters.

Newspapers in India's commercial capital of Bombay enthusiastically trumpeted the return of Narendra Karmarkar, a Bell Laboratories researcher who developed a time-saving mathematical technique that bears his name.

After 10 years overseas, Karmarkar took up a position at the city's Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR), which focuses on aspects of mathematics and theoretical physics.

"There is now a little confidence in the minds of Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) that India has opened up," said K. Munshi, head of the Industrial Design Centre at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) in

Bombay.

Many of India's talented software developers are graduates of the countrywide network of IITs, perhaps best known in the developed world as a hothouse for scientific manpower.

"The hype created by the media about globalization and liberalization seems to be working well and NRIs want to be a part of it," Munshi told Reuters.

THOUGH there are no statistics, former exiles are most highly visible in areas like the software industry and financial institutions, said Suhas Sukhatme, director of Bombay's IIT.

"With multinational companies setting up their offices here, professionals are offered high salaries that are extremely good by Indian standards," Sukhatme added. "Besides, they get the chance of visiting Western countries frequently."

Sunil Mukhi, a theoretical physicist who returned to India after taking a PhD from New York State University, said improvements in telecommunications help scientists keep track of the latest advances made by their colleagues overseas.

"Now India is no longer backward," Mukhi, who works at TIFR, said. "Ten years back it would have been a more remote island, but now with facilities

like e-mail we are keeping ourselves abreast of the latest developments every hour."

MUNSHI classed those who return in separate categories - those tired of an alien lifestyle abroad who yearn for reunion with family and friends; and those whose family-run enterprises compel their return to India after completing their studies.

"There is another important class of people who come back - professionals who have already risen in their career overseas," he added.

"Many multinational companies that are operating here and have joint ventures with Indian companies need country managers to look after their operations. So they prefer sending Indians," Munshi said.

One of the earliest examples is Boeing India President Dinesh Kesar, who took a PhD in aeronautical engineering under former astronaut Neil Armstrong and returned recently to head his firm's local activities.

Many entrepreneurs return home to exploit wage differentials that translate into a business edge in overseas markets.

"Whatever their business, their market is in the US and the West," said Munshi. "Many people, mostly those who work in software and Internet services,

come here, get their work done with cheap manpower and sell it in America for a higher price."

Yet others, like astronomer Jayant Narlikar, who worked at Cambridge with Sir Fred Hoyle on a theory on the universe's origin, have returned to set up their own schools.

Narlikar's Inter-University Center for Astronomy and Astrophysics is just one of the numerous Indian institutions working at the cutting edge of most technical disciplines.

"In science at least we are working in almost all the frontier areas," TIFR's Mukhi said. "We have a good number of science centers like TIFR, the Indian Institute of Science, the Center for Cellular and Molecular Biology, and others which rank among the top in the world."

"So people will not have any feeling of being left behind because of working here. All these considerations encourage people to come back," he added.

Few biffins are deterred by the fact that salaries still do not match those in the West, Mukhi said.

"Many of us are not keen on making money as long as we can get a decent job," he added.

After putting in so many years my take-home pay is around \$250 dollars per month and in the US an associate professor earns a cool \$6,000 per month.

"But I don't mind it," Mukhi said. "Our return has more to do with priorities in life," said Nandakumar, a medical professional in the southern city of Madras, who returned from Britain last year.

"After many years of cultural exile, it is like a self-revival," he added. "And matters like pay and the working conditions no longer are primary considerations." Many scientists have difficulty adjusting to the more permissive lifestyles of the West, he said.

"Some parents want their children to be brought up in their own tradition. There's a tendency among a good majority of parents to say, 'I shall not bring up my daughter in a society where free sex, drugs and other perversions are rampant.' People do have such fixations and do not want their kids to grow in such climate," Nandakumar added.

In some ways, the scientists' return is the result of a failure to completely sever emotional ties to their homeland.

"Many people who settle down in the US do not assimilate completely because of cultural differences," Sukhatme said.

"Such people gladly seize the opportunities which have come about due to liberalization and don't mind coming back to work for lower salaries by comparison with Western standards." (Reuters)

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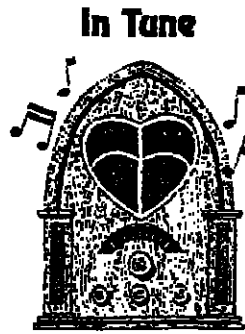
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מזמין השירות



# Bonnie Raitt lights a fire



By David Brinn

Like a fine wine, Bonnie Raitt keeps getting better with age. Refusing to rest on her already lofty laurels, the master slide guitarist, singer and song interpreter extraordinaire has temporarily cut her ties with her comeback executor Don Was and hooked up with producer Mitchell Froom, who has worked with Suzanne Vega.

The change revitalizes Raitt.

FUNDAMENTAL  
Bonnie Raitt  
(NMC)MARCY PLAYGROUND  
Marcy Playground  
(NMC)SOUL CLASSIC  
Various Artists  
(NMC/Red Artz)

who collaborates with a host of compatible peers like John Hiatt, Paul Brady and Los Lobos to deliver a varied and satisfying collection of material, new and old. Ranging from her trademark rootsy gutbucket blues and R&B to turns at reggae and country-inflected ballads, Raitt sounds at ease, playful and full of fire.

Froom's input includes more prominent use of keyboards and airy touches à la Vega, which at times propels Raitt beyond her raunchy party girl reputation.

In particular, collaborations with songwriter Dillon O'Brian on the sparkling "Fearless Love" and the world music sound of "One Belief Away" point to a more mature, sophisticated direction.

Which is not to say that she's turned into a nun. "I Need Love" by NRBQ's Joey Spampinato bristles with funky lust, and "The Fundamental Things" urges getting back to "the simple skin on skin."

With Raitt, it's an offer that few will be able to refuse.

IN A season bursting with wondrous debuts, none is more intoxicating than wonderfully quirky eponymously titled *Marcy Playground*. Emerging from the frozen Minnesota hinterlands that produced strikingly original artists as diverse as Husker Du, The Replacements, and that guy who used to be called Prince, the band Marcy Playground is the brainchild of one John Wozniak, with an emphasis on "child." For he possesses the simple childlike wonder that most of us lose in adulthood and expresses it in a combination of Alice in Wonderland innocence and post-grunge attitude.

Evidently, Wozniak used to spend all his time in the Marcy Open School in Minneapolis, looking down at the playground and creating his own imaginary world because he was afraid of the other kids.

Amid hooks galore, the guitar/bass/drums trio takes on Chinese-English opium trade, suicide and vampires and makes them perfectly relevant within the context of growing up. The music recalls some of Kurt Cobain's more melodic moments and at times achieves sublime perfection, like on the love song to a long-lost kindergarten mate, "Sherry Fraser."

Ironically enough, the hit single that is tearing up American charts, "Sex and Candy," is possibly the most pedestrian tune here but the

most palatable for the *Billboard* "modern rock" charts which it tops.

For those who remember creating their own dream world as a kid to escape the rampaging bullies and the unpleasantness in the real one, Marcy Playground redeems the validity of those dreams. And it has a ball doing so.

SPOTLIGHT on James Brown now! It's sweet soul music for at least half of this ambitious double CD compilation by Israel's two largest record companies.

Going lightly on the Motown standards which have been done to death, the '60-'70 disc of *Soul Classics* focuses on those Top 40 hits that blurred the distinction between black soul and white pop.

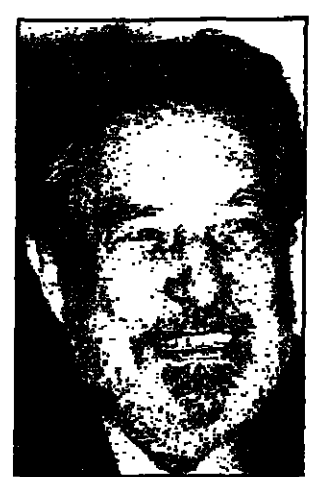
The aforementioned hardest working man in showbiz, Brown, is represented by the monumental "It's a Man's Man's Man's World" and choice selections by The Temptations, Etta James and Wilson Pickett only pick up the pace.

Even more fun than those obvious ditties are the delicious mid-'70s offerings like Billy Paul's classic "Me and Mrs. Jones," Harold Melvin & the Blue Note's "Don't Leave Me This Way" and The Full Monty's adopted theme song, "You Sexy Thing" by Hot Chocolate.

Disc Two, covering the '80s and '90s, suffers immeasurably in comparison, with sugary soul crooners taking over, such as George Benson, Luther Vandross and Lionel Richie.

Still, we get Chaka Khan, Prince, and Terence Trent D'Arby at their best, and Tina Turner and Sade at their near finest.

This would have been a killer single disc. But despite its erratic second half, there are enough delights to keep you dancing through the night. And, like The Jacksons say in one of the few nods to disco on the compilation, you can "blame it on the boogie."



## Nobel poet dies

Nobel laureate Octavio Paz died on Sunday at the age of 84. One of Mexico's finest poets, he was also an incisive political essayist and outspoken critic of dictatorships. A full obituary will appear in Thursday's *Jerusalem Post*. (Text: Reuters/Photo AP)

## Rare Ionesco revival on Broadway

By MATT WOLF

For years, Richard Briers embodied the quintessential English suburbanite on stage and television, where he had a career being "lovable all over the place and making a good living."

Now Briers, the 64-year-old veteran of such popular TV shows as *The Good Neighbors*, is making his Broadway debut as the 95-year-old Old Man in a rare Broadway revival of Eugene Ionesco's *The Chairs*.

The production, co-starring English theater stalwart Geraldine McEwan as The Old Man's spouse of 75 years, opened April 1 for a limited run at the Golden Theater.

The result weds blissful comic timing to the Romanian dramatist's self-described "tragic farce" written in 1952 and allows an established light comedian to deepen his range. Director Simon McBurney approaches the play with real feeling and heart. McBurney's obvious love of the play is inseparable from his stars, who must share the stage with as many as 62 chairs as Ionesco's dizzying fantasia unfolds. (At one point, McEwan brings on four at once.) "It's quite tiring. Neither of us is 21 anymore," Briers said of a staging co-produced by the London-based Theatre de Complicite troupe, an ensemble steeped in what has been termed "physical theater."

"It is like a ballet, and it requires enormous discipline," he said.

The play has come at a time when many actors might prefer to slow down. Not Briers, who finds himself getting more fearless as he gets older. "Ten years ago, I thought, 'I've got to start up the ladder as far as I can,'" he said, quickly adding, "Look, one's not going to be Jack Nicholson, let's face it."

Instead, he heeded the call of his friend Kenneth Branagh, who cast him in roles like King Lear and Chekhov's Uncle Vanya.

The role of King Lear gave Briers the confidence later to tackle *The Chairs*. "It did me good," he recalled. "It toned me up."

Shakespeare's not frightened of making a big gesture. It gives you authority — it's really very good bedding for this extraordinarily difficult, insane play."

As The Old Man, McBurney said Briers "achieves a tragedy greater than in his performance as King Lear. It uses all his skills right from the lightest of comic touches, at which he's a master, through to the bitterness of disappointment."

Quite a change from Briers' early career, which he describes as "French windows comedy, sitcom, and all that stuff. I was one of the last old-fashioned actors in that way."

While drama school contemporaries like Albert Finney and Peter O'Toole were refining a new genre called "kitchen sink realism," Briers was playing "hello, I'm sorry-I'm late parts." He became a household name as the archetypal middle-class partner to Felicity Kendal in *The Good Neighbors*, which he performed for 30 episodes for over two years.

On stage, he was a mainstay of the angst-filled comedies of the prolific Alan Ayckbourn before Branagh upped the ante in 1987 by offering him the part of Malvolio, the resident malcontent, in Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night*. Small parts followed in Branagh's films of *Henry V* and *Much Ado about Nothing*, and in Branagh's star-second 1996 screen adaptation of *Hamlet*, in which Briers played Polonius.

On Broadway, he'll be considered a newcomer, but that's another risk Briers is more than happy to take. "Although, mind you, I did say to a couple of chums, 'On Broadway, if they don't like us, we'll be home a week from Thursday in time for tea.'" (AP)

# Madredeus rises above Dead Sea adversity

## Concert Roundup



The music of the Portuguese quintet Madredeus is heavenly. Led by the lovely and graceful Teresa Salgueiro, their angelic music is a combination of a lilting vocal and classical guitars backed by a deftly handled synthesizer. Salgueiro's is a strong and versatile voice that captures the imagination and never lets go. Unfortunately, the performance was most hindered by a massive cloud of insects fluttering over and around the quintet. A lesser performer may have given up, but Salgueiro's poise and grace radiated through despite the adversity.

**MADREDEUS**  
Dead Sea Festival  
April 14

One climax was the piece *Music for the Youth*. As the rising tempo of the piece blended into a long and alluring guitar bridge, Teresa faded backstage, and there was a rising tension in the crowd — "had she finally given up?" After a superlative five-minute instrumental interlude, she returned on cue, much to everyone's audible relief, to give a wonderful finale.

I felt at a loss not understanding the obviously emotion-filled Portuguese prose, but it really didn't matter. To hear such a rich, strong, beautiful voice-backed by simple yet, at times fairly com-

plex, Iberian-style classical guitar made the whole experience unforgettable.

*Seth Vogelstein*  
The Gachinger Kantorei performance of Haydn's *The Seasons* by the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra, conducted by Helmuth Rilling, the main heroes were the solo singers.

Thomas Quasthoff was the most outstanding personality. His sonorous, deep bass-baritone and

**IPO**  
Gachinger Kantorei  
Haydn: *The Seasons*  
ICC  
April 9

his attentive emphasis on significant points of the text make him an extraordinary singer. His rendition of the hunt and of the desolate winter scenery count among the highlights of this performance.

There was something exceptionally lovely about Canadian Donna Brown's velvety soprano. It conveyed a sense of purity and softness, even in the highest register, without any sharp edges or forced tone. Her presentation of Hanne's Tale was a veritable gem — among many others.

Stephen Rugamer's caressing lyric tenor sounded highly cultured and expressive. His description of the anxiety-stricken wanderer in winter was extremely moving.

The Gachinger Kantorei choir gained energy and vitality in the second part, after it had sounded nobly restrained but hardly exciting in the first one, where even the summer storm was not partic-



Teresa Salgueiro has a strong and versatile voice.

ularly stormy. The farmers' merry-making in autumn was lively and joyous. The appropriately solemn conclusion expressed force of conviction, despite the text's naive

moralizing — or perhaps because of it.

Ury Eppstein

A Little Suite for string trio by Robert Mozes, the Jerusalem String Trio's violist, with Rimma

Kaminkovsky and Yoram Alperin, was presented in an almost-premiere, at the group's annual charity concert of the Israel Tuberculosis League.

Without turning its back on Romanticism, the piece is spiced

**JERUSALEM STRING TRIO**

Israel Tuberculosis League  
Charity Concert  
Works by Schubert,  
Tanyev and Mozes  
Jerusalem Theater  
April 12

with not too aggressive dissonances for modernity's sake. In its Hora movement, it casts a wistful, well-meaning nostalgic glance at this venerable folk dance. In view of the scarcity of works for this instrumental combination, this is a welcome addition to its repertoire.

The rarely performed works of Sergei Tanyev, although having lived well into the 20th century, seems hardly to have been aware of its minor fact. Recycling much of its predecessors' style, his String Trio in D major nevertheless provides a change from this ensemble's standard fare.

Well-rehearsed and well-coordinated as the group sounded, refraining from overt excitement and exuberance in the trios, pianist Idith Zvi injected refreshing energies and liveliness into Schubert's *Trout Quintet*, joined by double bassist Gabriel Vole. Her delicate, sensitive playing, delightfully soft touch, and avoidance of soloist self-assertion created an enjoyable chamber-music ambience.

Ury Eppstein

The Sinfonietta assembled a marvelous cast for this week's concert version of excerpts from *Eugene Onegin*, presented also in Ashkelon, Arad and Dimona. With each new production, gestures and pantomime extend into authentic quest-staged presentations. Michael Ajzenstadt's running commentary integrates effectively into a new kind of dramatic experience — something between concert, lecture, and opera.

Debuting bass-baritone Vladimir Braun was world-class warm maturity, richness of tone, and power of projection reaching up into the last seat of the balcony.

**ISRAEL SINFONIETTA/  
MENACHEM NEBENHAUS**  
Tchaikovsky: "Eugene Onegin"  
highlights  
Beersheba Conservatory  
April 18

He inspired colleague Larisa Tetuyev to her best in the impassioned closing duet between Onegin and Tatiana.

Heroic statured lyric tenor Yevgeny Shapovalov impressed too with a beautiful cantilena in Lensky's aria as well as dramatic force in the duet-challenge scene.

Mezzo-soprano Susanna Poretsky made her deep, intense vocalism felt in the character role of Olga. Tetuyev was hindered through Tatiana's letter scene by Conductor Nebenhaus, who does not project feeling for orchestral sonority. With wooden gestures, he directs from above like a traffic cop.

Max Stern

# Linda McCartney — 'The most positive person on earth'

By SUE LEEMAN

Following the death of his wife Linda on Friday, Sir Paul McCartney asked fans not to send flowers. Rather they should give a donation to charities involved in cancer research, animal welfare "or — best of all — the tribute that Linda herself would like best: Go veggie," the former Beatle said.

"The blessing was that the end came quickly and she didn't suffer," a statement from Paul McCartney's office said. Two days before her death, Linda and Paul had been horseback riding, one of her main passions.

Baker said the family was very close and that only once had Paul and Linda been parted overnight in their 30 years together.

The couple announced in December 1995 that Linda McCartney, a vegetarian who marketed her own meat-free dishes, was being treated for breast cancer.

The treatment at first appeared to be working well, but in March the cancer was found to have spread to

her liver.

Paul McCartney's mother died of breast cancer when he was 14.

Linda Eastman was already acclaimed for her moody, gritty photographs when she married Paul McCartney in 1969. They had three children, Mary, 27, Stella, 25, and James, 19.

The McCartneys largely avoided the celebrity lifestyle and lived quietly in remote homes in southern England and Scotland, saying they wanted a normal upbringing for their children and Heather, Linda McCartney's daughter from her first marriage to geophysicist John Melvyn See.

Prime Minister Tony Blair said Sunday from Jerusalem: "She was someone who made a tremendous contribution across a whole range of British life."

Linda McCartney exhibited her photographs in some 50 galleries worldwide, including London's prestigious Victoria and Albert Museum.

"I can see better through the camera," she said in an interview in 1994. "It's not a security blanket

but when I have it with me, I'm thrilled walking down the street."

Throughout the 1960s, she photographed some of the era's rock icons: Jimi Hendrix, Bob Dylan, Aretha Franklin, the Doors, the Grateful Dead. Many were collected in her book *Linda McCartney's Sixties*, Portrait of an Era.

Yoko Ono, the widow of Beatle John Lennon, said she was deeply saddened to hear of McCartney's death.

"She's in a state of shock," Ono's publicist Elliott Mintz said. "She spoke to Linda within the past year and Linda sounded her usual, powerful self to Yoko."

Many activists hailed her support for their causes. "Linda was always upbeat about our work against cruelty, and we'll fight harder in her name," Dan Mathews, a campaign director for the Washington, D.C.-based People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals, said Sunday.

Born into a wealthy family, Linda Eastman grew up in Scarsdale, New York. Her father, Lee Eastman, was a lawyer; her mother died in a plane crash when

Linda was 19.

After majoring in art history at the University of Arizona, she moved to New York City at the age of 21, becoming a receptionist at Town and Country magazine.

A lucky break enabled her to photograph the Rolling Stones, and she was asked to capture other rock stars on camera. Soon she was dating celebrities, including actor Warren Beatty and a manager of The Who, Chris Stamp.

During a trip to London in May 1967 she met Paul at the launch of the Beatles' Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band album. They married in London two years later.

When she joined her husband's new band, Wings, in 1972, as a keyboard player, she was ridiculed for her lack of musicality.

In 1972, the McCartneys were fined for possessing marijuana and in another incident, in 1984, they both admitted carrying the drug.

Last year, she became Lady Linda when her husband was knighted by Queen Elizabeth II.

Daughter Stella was appointed head designer at the Paris fashion



The McCartneys were virtually never apart in 30 years. (AP)

house Chloe last year and recently narrated a video exposing conditions at fur farms.

Speaking about his wife's fight

against cancer in an earlier interview, Paul McCartney called her "the most positive person on earth." (AP)



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## Shift to final status

Sometimes a little pleasantness can go a long way. British Prime Minister Tony Blair is a novice at the Mideast peace process, but he may have succeeded in nudging things forward just a bit. It was not just the aura of the Northern Ireland agreement surrounding him, but his noncoercive approach. As opposed to other visitors who come wielding diplomatic cudgels, he wrote in this newspaper, "I am not coming here to apportion blame or take sides."

In the past, Israel has resisted European involvement in the peace process, perhaps because it had all the subtlety of being beaten over the head with a stick. Yesterday a cabinet statement emphasized that, "Neither European mediation nor an international conference is in question." But Blair's visit seems to have ameliorated slightly Israel's historic aversion to European involvement. Britain only holds the European presidency from January to June, and got off on the wrong foot with Foreign Secretary Robin Cook's high-handed visit here last month. But Blair seems already to have repaired that damage, and made the idea of a May summit in London not only palatable, but attractive.

At Sunday's joint press conference with Blair, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu seemed eager for such a summit, pledging to "go anywhere, anytime" to meet with Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat. By the next morning, excitement was rising about a four-way summit in London, including US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, Netanyahu, Arafat, and Blair. Now it seems that talk of a summit is premature, since the Palestinians are dismissing the idea as a Netanyahu publicity stunt, devoid of substance.

The Palestinian charge that Netanyahu is not interested in substance cuts both ways. If substance matters, not process, Arafat should share Netanyahu's enthusiasm for a summit to finally close the American-brokered deal. The outlines of the deal — and many of the details — are clear to both sides. Like the Gaza airport itself, the deal has been built up slowly, and is just waiting for the finishing touches to be put into place. Both sides know that the Israeli withdrawal will be from 10 to 13 percent of the West Bank, that the Palestinians will have to deliver substantially on compliance with their commitments under Oslo, and that the third redeployment will somehow be folded into the final-status talks.

For months now, neither side has wanted to be seen as making the final concession under pressure. But now the differences have narrowed to just the point that summits were made to bridge. It can no longer be argued that the differences are too great for a summit to be worthwhile. So far, Arafat's declarations that he will redeclare Palestinian statehood in May 1999 — he first did so in 1988 — seem not to have affected Israel's plans to redeploy before then. But already voices on the right-wing are asking, why should Israel hand over more territory if Arafat has no intention of entering into final-status negotiations?

Though Arafat might be tempted by the Ben-Gurion precedent of declaring a state before knowing what its final borders might be, it is hard to understand why such a step would be in the Palestinians' interest. Since Oslo requires that neither side change the legal status of the territory before final-status negotiations are concluded, the unilateral Palestinian declaration of a state would free Israel from its requirements under Oslo. The Palestinians might continue to claim more territory, but Israel, with or without formal annexation, would continue to control some 60 percent of the West Bank.

Most unfortunate, the peace process would lose its negotiated framework, and the danger that de facto borders between Israel and the Palestinians would be determined through open warfare would grow. Though Israel might well retain more territory under these circumstances than in a negotiated settlement, neither side should wish for such a bloody outcome.

It is in the interests of both sides to make the negotiation process work, and that means planning for its success rather than its failure. Israel's redeployment, therefore, should be designed to build momentum towards successful final-status talks, rather than minimized as a hedge against a unilateral declaration of Palestinian statehood. But the Palestinians also have to demonstrate their commitment to the process by engaging in final-status negotiations immediately.

Wrapping up the interim steps envisaged at Oslo has become so difficult that the objective of the process has almost been forgotten: delivering the parties into final-status talks. Outside parties, such as the US and Europe, would do well to help shift the focus back to this overarching objective.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### POSITIVE RELATIONSHIP

Sir, — A friend has sent me Moshe Arens' article "No contrition, lots ofchutzpah" (March 27), fiercely criticizing "British mistakes in Palestine" and the lack of contrition by the British Foreign Secretary Robin Cook, on his recent visit to Israel.

As a British Jew who has done whatever he can during his lifetime to support the State of Israel, I was distressed to find this wholly negative one-sided view of relationships with Britain.

I, too, was and am highly critical of British conduct in the second half of the mandate period and the visit to Har Homa by Robin Cook clearly misjudged the reaction in Israel. But such a misjudgment does not justify Arens's diatribe.

If it were not for Britain there would be no Israel today. It was in Britain, around 100 years ago that a groundswell of opinion sympathizing with Jewish national aspirations developed amongst leading non-Jewish liberals. It was to Britain that Chaim Weizmann went as the sympathetic quarter which might possibly provide some moral and political support. It was Britain that issued the Balfour Declaration. It was Britain which applied to the League of Nations for a mandate to enable it to implement the Balfour Declaration.

I do not seek to defend or justify the many bad things that happened towards the end of the British

Mandate. But if one wants to understand, one must look at the circumstances. The 1939 White Paper restricting Jewish immigration was after Munich the previous year, following which many in Britain thought war was inevitable. It was necessary for Britain to secure its lifeline through Suez, to India and the East. And the overwhelming strategic and commercial interest of Britain in the region lay with the Arabs. Not a highly moral consideration, but all would have to be subordinated to the dominant objective of beating the enemy, Hitler.

In the long perspective of history, all factors in the relationship with Britain, both positive and negative, will be weighed in the balance, and I have no doubt that the unique and unselfish part played by Britain in creating the conditions which permitted first a Jewish national home and then a Jewish state will be recognized. The negatives will appear as mere blemishes on the positive.

Moshe Arens does not do himself or Israel any good by stirring up the emotionally charged resentments of 50 years ago. And he does real harm by misleading young readers into a distorted view of history. It is time to live in the present.

DAVID LEWIS

London.

### DENIGRATING THE BRITISH

Sir, — I wonder what your correspondents, who so enthusiastically denigrate Britain and the British, would have had to say if Rommel and not Montgomery had tri-

umphed at El Alamein?

ERIC GUTWILLIG

Haifa.

### BLAIR'S EXAGGERATION

Sir, In his article, "Don't give up" (April 19), our distinguished visitor, Prime Minister Tony Blair, writes that he has come to achieve progress between the Israelis and the Palestinians.

However he states that there are 3.5 million Palestinian refugees. How did he get this number? In the War of Independence there were less than 800,000 Arab refugees. Part of them settled in Jordan. It is therefore impossible, even with a record population increase, to obtain such an exaggerated number.

If one wants to try to help in such a dispute, one expects that such a person should obtain proper information on the facts before coming. By his exaggeration, one becomes suspicious of his intention to mediate without preconceptions.

Prof. D. SHALITIEL

Jerusalem

### OLMERT'S HIGH HORSE

Sir, — Could you imagine our prime minister on an official visit to Great Britain being invited to a state dinner and the Lord Mayor of London refusing to participate on the grounds that our prime minister did not call on him personally?

How high is Ehud Olmert's horse?

ISAAC NEWMAN

Jerusalem

## FROM OUR ARCHIVES

65 years ago: On April 21, 1933, *The Palestine Post* reported that Field-Marshal Viscount Allenby, accompanied by Dr. Arlosoroff of the Jewish Agency retraced routes familiar to him from 1917 and 1918 when he fought along these roads beating the Turks. He also visited Rehovot and Beer Tuvia which was destroyed in the 1929 riots

and rebuilt with the help of those Jewish ex-soldiers who had fought under his command.

50 years ago: On April 21, 1948, *The Palestine Post* reported that the Jewish Agency demanded a complete removal of the Arab Legion from Palestine claiming that "it was astonishing that the British authorities should continue to maintain in Palestine

a force which constitutes a menace to the Jewish community and tolerate its participation in attacks on Jews and Jewish settlements." The largest convoy to arrive in Jerusalem in the past 10 days reached the Capital from Tel Aviv carrying large quantities of food, including matzo.

Alexander Zvielli

OLEG 98



## Of Buddhas and Babas

The recent crash of a Taiwanese airliner posed the question of how to prevent the recurrence of such an accident in the future. The decision taken was to bring a tooth of Buddha to the great Buddhist temple, Pokwan Chan.

A special plane belonging to China Air, bearing the legend "Welcome to the tooth of Buddha" in huge red letters, landed in Taipei at noon last Thursday. Thousands of people waited in impressive silence in a huge hangar at the airport.

Monks and nuns, with shaven heads and wearing yellow tunics, prayed on the stage. The head of the temple made some remarks and was followed by the prime minister, who wished his country better luck. A famous singer, whose daughter had been kidnapped, raped and brutally murdered a few months previously, was invited to participate in the ceremony. Her appearance caused a sensation in the crowd. The message was clear to everyone: The spell of bad luck must change and good luck will come with the tooth.

There are only four teeth of this kind in the world. And now, after paying a fortune for it, Taiwan is blessed with one of them.

This was, of course, a very important ceremony, with seats for VIPs and standing room for less important people.

There was an M.C. TV crews endangering their lives on ladders in various parts of the hangar, excited nuns going on to the stage and leaving it while carrying burning sprigs, incense and similar articles and a somber audience dressed in dark suits.

The festival of shrine-cleaning had been completed only three days earlier. The graveyards in Taiwan are built in the hills in a way that protects the graves from evil spirits. On the two days of the festival of shrine cleaning, the believers in Taoism, who form the majority of the population, make a point of climbing the hills on narrow stone steps to visit the tombs of their parents.

Most of the shrines are round stone structures in which the heads

### YOSSI BEILIN

of the family are buried. Other members of the family are interred around the sides. On the facade of each shrine there is a lion, bearing the features of the dead person.

The souls of the Taoists are not reincarnated and do not wait for the resurrection of the dead. They hover throughout the world and take great interest in what is happening in it.

### You long to return to sanity and to modernity...

In order to continue honorably without getting angry at their living relatives, they require food, drink and money. Their relatives know this, and during the two days of the festival they bring more than brooms for cleaning the shrines and beautiful flowers to put in vases at the foot of the shrines. They bring baskets of fruit, vegetables, noodles and drink and bundles of "bank notes" looking like the real thing, which they purchase nearby. They set all these things "alight" until they turn to ash, and afterwards clean up the ash until the shrine is shining.

At five in the morning, the hill of graves looks like a collection of bonfires, with families standing beside the graves of their dear ones. The men are dressed in suits and ties, the women in festive clothes, the children in white.

They are all preoccupied and well aware of what awaits them. A note having the appearance of money flies out of the hands of a young girl and she chases it with concern, catches it and finally sets it alight with an elegant lighter. Her face relaxes — now her dear relatives will not be short of cash in the world of spirits.

This is a suitable time to visit the Taoist temple. It is packed with young and old people who press their palms together in prayer, murmur to themselves and bring an offering of fruit and meat to the monks. Small pieces of

wood, looking like slices of apple, pass from hand to hand. One side is red, the other white.

People ask a question and throw two of these pieces of wood, like throwing dice. If both come up white, or both red, the answer is no. If one is red and one white, the answer is yes. If you don't like the answer, you can always choose a stick marked with a number and check it against the numbered phrases appearing in a book kept nearby.

"I almost never do this," someone says to you, someone who looks as though he just left a local software company and feels a need to answer your surprised expression. "But now I have to make a particularly important decision." His mobile phone rings, he stops playing with the pieces of wood, answers the phone and uses his pocket calculator to give a reply.

Outside, on the other side of the temple fence, a long line of blind people sit and massage the backs of their customers, who sit on plastic seats in front of them, distorting their faces in pain or ecstasy. While receiving treatment they can hear the monotonous singing of the nuns who start their prolonged prayers at this time.

YOU ask yourself at every step — how can this be happening? An advanced country, a developed economy, 21st century electronics, computers everywhere, people with higher education. How can they burn paper having the appearance of money for the sake of their departed dear ones, and toss bits of wood to find out what decision to make?

You long to return to sanity and to modernity, to the bottles of water of the Baba Sali, to the hard-rabbis who decide for their followers whether to undergo an operation or not, to the lucky charms of Rabbi Kadourie, to the magic chair in Ashdod which makes every woman who sits on it bear children. To the rabbis who fly seven times around the center of the country to ward off Scud missiles from Iraq, to the red heifer which has finally been found.

You can't wait any more.

## Keeping the faith

### STEWART WEISS

the events of Pessah, what is our general mood? Are we somber and solemn, dreary and despondent? Do we hang our heads low and weep all night? Or are we rather in a festive spirit, upbeat, optimistic, even jubilant? Do we not raise our cups of wine high not once, but four times, singing happy songs of deliverance, eating the most elaborate meal of the year?

How, can we do this? How can we, in good conscience, sit at our Pessah table and feast and sing and smile, when we are commemorating an event in which so many of our people were systematically slaughtered?

THE answer, of course, is perspective. For when we examine the events of Pessah, we do not see them only in their limited, tragic dimensions. We see the more complete picture, and we view the servitude in Egypt not as one isolated event, but as part of a continuum that stretches out over hundreds of years. The slavery was one tragic chapter in a whole series of epochs that include the Exodus, the splitting of the sea, the giving of the Torah, the entrance into Eretz Yisrael, and the building of the Temple in Jerusalem. Viewed in their entirety, these events are overwhelmingly glorious and positive, and justify our unabashed rejoicing at the Seder.

We mortals can see the present, and grapple with the implications of events as they are. But we cannot know the future, and the ramifications and outgrowths of the

events of today. Our only hope in distilling some sense out of history, in discovering some goodness and justice and divine guidance in this universe, is to look back, and view the string of isolated incidents as threads of a complex tapestry, whose beauty and symmetry can only be appreciated from afar.

In this context, the joy of the overall Pessah commemoration can be understood. With the luxury of two millennia of perspective, we can appreciate the Pessah experience in its entirety, and see it for the great moment in history which it represents.

It is not by coincidence that Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Day comes upon the heels of Pessah. Through the prism of Pessah, the message is being sent to us that we are too close to the Holocaust to see anything but the tragic consequences of this single, devastating event. We cannot discern the larger picture that God is weaving, for the stretch of the crematoria is still in our noses, and the sound of the babies' screaming still rings in our ears.

But the day will yet arrive when we look back and see more than just the forced deportations, the crowded and cruel cattle-cars, the smoke emanating from the death camp ovens. It will be a day not unlike the Seder night of Pessah, and it will justify, finally, the stubborn loyalty of all those who, come what may, held fast to their faith in a benevolent God and His guiding hand throughout history.

The writer is the director of the Jewish Outreach Center of Ramatana.

## Silly questions

WILLIAM F. BUCKLEY JR.

The warning is very ancient. It says that the true enemy of a loss of liberty is the diminution of the nervous reflex that spots creeping tyranny.

There are many examples, but none better, surely, than the idiotic ritual one is required to submit to at airports. Everyone is familiar with the routine, but it has become so habitual, we go through it without giving it any thought.

You present your bags and your ticket and are asked for "an ID." This is generally a driver's license or a passport. You pull the driver's license from your wallet and the porter or gatekeeper pretends to look at it. All right, let's say he actually does look at it. Looks for what?

He looks for the name of "Adam Berlin," which is what you are ticketed as: "A. Berlin." Rochester to Atlanta. He nods. Why is he nodding? Because he sees a picture that resembles you.

What he has established is that a driver's license was at one point issued under the name "Adam Berlin," which is the same name that appears on a travel ticket presented by a man who looks like the picture of him on the driver's license.

Next point: Name one saboteur, or for that matter one killer or mugger or rapist, who did not have a driver's license. Since you need no identification to buy a ticket, all that needs to be done is to have a driver's license with a photographic likeness of you on it. If you want such a license under a name that is not your own, send \$5 to any bookstore and ask it to send you a copy of *A Children's Guide on How to Spy*.

But that is only the first thing, of course. Then come the questions:

Have you been separated from your suitcases since they were packed? (No.)

Did anyone other than you pack

**Q. Do you believe in overthrowing the United States government by force or violence?**

**A. Preferably by force**

the suitcases? (No.)

Are you carrying inside the suitcases any packages for anyone that were not packed by you? (No.)

You feel embarrassed for the poor porters or ticket collectors who have to ask such rote questions when the chance of their uncovering foul play is much less than your chance of going down in flames on their airplane.

If you are engaged in mischief inside your suitcases, you are not going to reveal this to the baggage porter. The whole sequence is inherently stupid and humiliating, requiring as it does liturgical questions and liturgical responses by great big grown men and women who should resent it all.

THERE are 1.5 million people who fly every day; times 365 makes almost 550 million per year. That comes to about half a billion times per year that somebody is asking silly questions demanding of somebody else meaningless responses.

During the days when people worried about security at immigration points of entry, a middle-aged French intellectual with practically no knowledge of English heard the immigration examiner ask, "Do you believe in overthrowing the United States government by force or violence?"

"Er," he replied, in agony exactly to understand the question, "preferably by force."

That stopped the assembly line until it was explained to him that the purpose of the question hadn't been to ask him whether he preferred force to violence; rather to ask him simply to say no as a comprehensive answer.

If there is anybody out there who defends the baggage-question ritual, he has not been heard from in any public forum.

On what comes after the bags are checked, it is not widely divulged how much contraband is picked up by those X-ray machines that survey our briefcases and hatboxes and carry-on miscellany.

Here it is a little easier to understand why the show nevertheless goes on. It goes on because who can say how many people are (genuinely?) employed to carry on those searches. If God were to grab a thunderbolt and aim it down on humankind, forever extirpating any temptation to commit mayhem or plunder in the air — what would we do? I mean, there we'd be with what 50,000 people serving no purpose whatever?

Universal Press Syndicate





Pens, starkly plain or fanciful and ornate, inspire love in the ardent collector.

## Passionate about pens

While for most of us a pen is little more than a mundane plastic instrument — handy for jotting down shopping lists and other writing needs but otherwise disposable — many people frown on this casual approach. They feel their penmanship is impaired unless they are using a real vintage fountain pen.

In fact, some derive such pleasure from their pens that they become collectors — like Jerusalem mayor Ehud Olmert, Jerusalem attorney Roni Bar-On, and IDF spokesman Oded Ben-Ami.

Israel's pen "club," numbering hundreds of enthusiasts, also includes industrialists Gad Propper and Ofra Strauss-Lahat, Clement Hassid, director-general of the Jerusalem Sheraton Plaza, and Norman Spector, president and publisher of *The Jerusalem Post*.

Many collector's items are imbued with childhood nostalgia, and so it often is with fountain pens.

Jerusalem attorney Bar-On's interest was sparked 15 years ago, when he rediscovered the Parker 51 pen he had been given for his bar mitzva. He had it

For some people the charm of owning a fountain pen turns into a craze. Allison Kaplan Sommer learns about the seductive powers of the Parker 51

repaired and cleaned, and found it worked perfectly.

He began collecting other vintage fountain pens and today has a collection exceeding 300 pens, 25-30 of which are in use.

"The pleasure you get from a good fountain pen is highly esthetic," says Bar-On, who is most commonly associated with the scandal that erupted last year with his short-lived appointment as attorney-general.

"When you see a pen, you immediately know if you want to acquire it. It's like jewelry — you either fall in love with it, or you don't."

"The great thing about pens," he continues, "is that they're practical, not something you collect just to admire and put in a safe. As a

lawyer I use a pen all the time; I like my handwriting to look decent even when I'm just writing a draft document."

Then, Bar-On adds, a vintage pen can be an ice-breaker. "Among businesspeople it's like an interesting pipe, cigar or watch — a way to get a conversation going with someone you don't know well."

Like other serious collectors, Bar-On devotes time to his hobby. He cleans his pens every two weeks, reads up on the history of pens, and, when abroad, browses around for new acquisitions, some of which he admits do not come cheap.

"I spoil myself. Sometimes I pick up a limited-edition pen, which is more expensive. But

these pens last forever if you take care of them.

"As I see it," he says, "they're a better investment than clothes or ties that get worn out or go out of fashion."

Of his bar mitzva Parker 51, which remains in working order and is his favorite pen, Bar-On says: "It's the best writing instrument ever invented. No technological advancement could improve it. It could write with vinegar and sand."

Many Israelis share Bar-On's affection for the Parker 51, one of the most durable pens ever made, standing up to the nib pressure caused by writing Hebrew. These pens were a popular gift here in the 1950s and '60s, and not just for bar mitzva boys.

When Ezer Weizman left active field command as an IDF general, his soldiers gave him a set of Parker 51 pens to mark his transition to the status of "jobnik," i.e. sitting behind a desk.

THE Parker 51 is the Ferrari of fountain pens," declares IDF spokesman Ben-Ami. He has 12, mostly picked up at yard sales and antique shops during his stint as Washington correspondent for Israel Radio.

"It's the only pen I've used since I was 13 years old," he says. "Other pens ruin my handwriting. True, the 51 isn't fancy, and some people find it bulky — but now that I am in uniform, my pockets are so big the pens tend to sink down inside them."

His collection, Ben-Ami notes smilingly, pales in comparison to that of his brother Haim, who is director-general of ORT Israel. Haim owns more than 200 pens — all Parker 51s.

The brothers' relationship with the pen began with their father. Recalls Haim:

"He owned a Parker 51, and he had handwriting like an artist. When we were young, both Oded and I had Parker 51s, and then Oded went out and bought two more, so he had three. So I went and looked for more and got into competition with him. I guess you could say I won," Haim laughs.

Why has he remained so loyal to this model and not tried any other? Haim responds, "That's like asking me why I've stayed with my wife."

He admits, however, that in recent years some of the challenge has gone out of collecting.

He used to buy Parker 51 pens wherever he came across them and delighted in each new discovery. But today, he says, pen collecting has become so popular that there are antique shops in London and New York where they can nearly always be found. That makes the search "less fun than it used to be."

FOR composer Ariel Levanon, who writes all his music with a fountain pen, the idea of limiting himself to Parker 51s would be like "eating chicken soup every single day." Levanon's pen collection exceeds 800.

When he is deliberating whether to buy a pen, it is the design of the nib that interests him most. He uses about 20 or 30 pens from his collection in rotation.

"If I had to buy them all over again I would have fewer," he muses. "Like any hobby, you learn as you go along."

"In the beginning I would buy a lot of pens, but as the years went by I learned to separate the wheat from the chaff," says Levanon, who also teaches music and serves as general-secretary of the Musician's Union.

Levanon's wife, Ada, who says she cannot remember a time when her husband wasn't devoted to his fountain pens, has long made her peace with the pen-hunting expe-



Haim Ben-Ami owns more than 200 pens — all Parker 51s.

(Jonathan Bloom)

ditions that are a feature of their trips abroad.

"For us, every trip begins and ends with pens," she says resignedly. But she respects her husband's hobby, which, she says, "doesn't interfere with the house very much."

"Ariel has a workshop where he composes; that's where he keeps all his pens."

"And, after all, pens are quite small and neat. It's not like putting up with a husband who collects motorcycles."

"I'M SORRY, the mayor is not interested in speaking about or being photographed with his fountain pen collection," says Ehud Olmert's spokeswoman. "He says he gets requests all the time from journalists about his collection, but does not wish to publicize it." It turns out that Olmert isn't alone. Many prominent pen col-

lectors — whose hobby is usually no secret — shun publicity. Other local celebrities issued polite refusals to requests for an interview. Polite refusals were also received from executive Ofra Strauss-Lahat, and from the Sheraton Plaza's Clement Hassid.

This does not surprise Shimon Dana, who sells and repairs the pens of the country's aficionados.

"Many, many people consider their pens as something they prefer to keep private," he says. "I have no idea why — maybe they're scared of thieves, maybe they're afraid it looks extravagant or indulgent — even though, in Olmert's case, he has received many pens as gifts."

Sometimes, Dana says, customers try to conceal their pen passion even from close relatives.

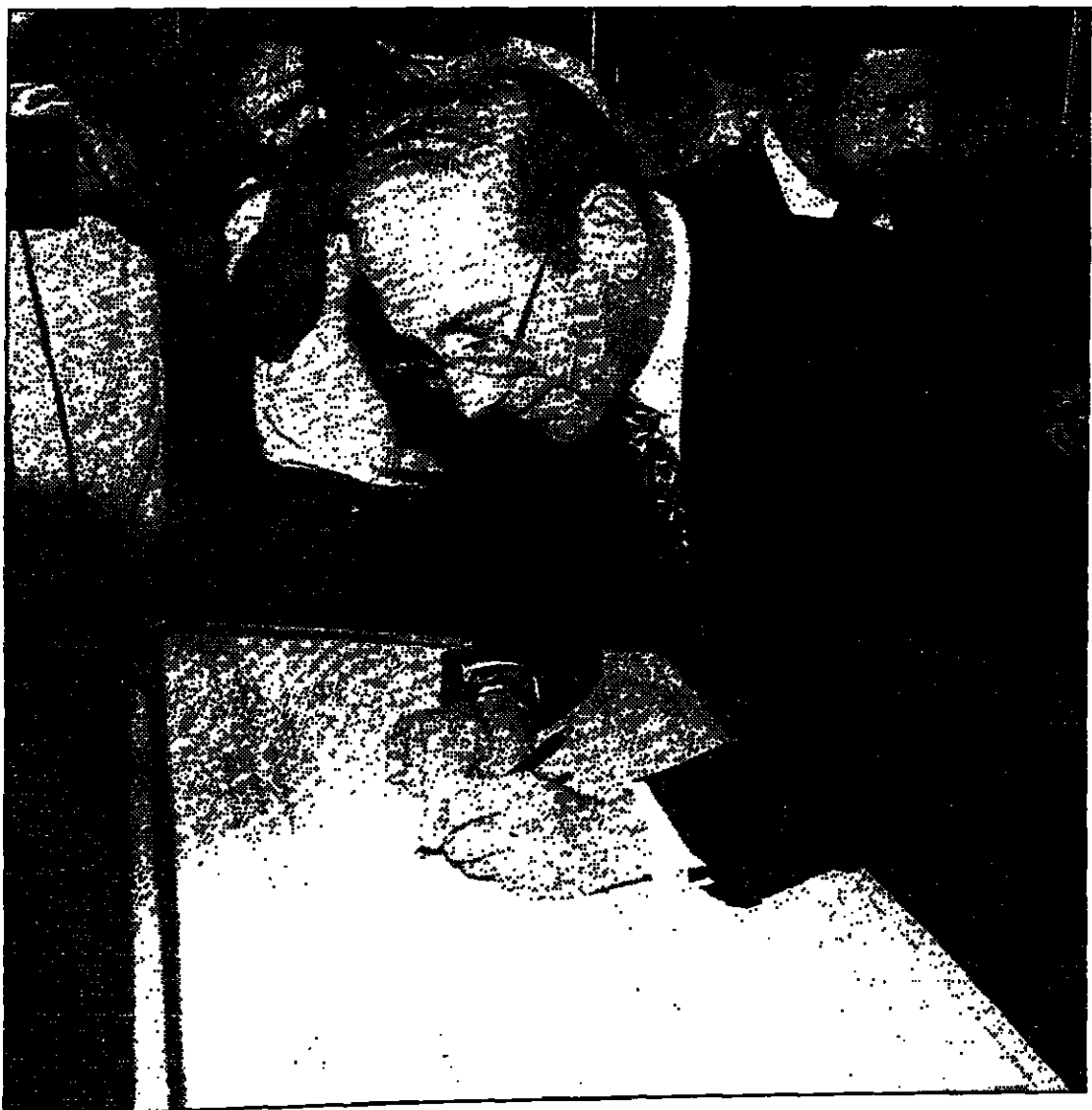
"I've had people ask me to keep their names secret because they don't want their wives to know

that they 'waste' money on pens," he says.

"And I've had customers who won't walk into my shop during daylight hours — they ask if I'll take their pens for repair at 10 at night, through the back entrance."

Fjord it hard to believe there are so many people crazy about fountain pens? Check out these sites on the Internet:

"Jim Gaston's Pen," <http://ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/jim-gaston/>; "The Washington Pen Club," <http://www.internetspen.com/>; "Glenn's Pen Page," <http://mindlink.net/glenn-marcus/mrcshp3.htm>; "Vincent Faticia's Pen Page," <http://barnyard.syr.edu/~vefaticia/pens.html>; "Fountain Pen Collection," <http://www.antiqueconnections.com/mpens1.html>; "Pen Collectors of America," <http://www.antiqueconnections.com/pens.html>



Ehud Olmert at a scroll-signing ceremony in the Knesset last year: The mayor is tight-lipped about his pen collection. (Jonathan Bloom)

## A status item

The fountain pen, invented in 1884, gained immediate popularity not only as a useful tool, but as a stylish and desirable accessory. It was, in fact, the only kind of pen in general use until the 1940s, when the ballpoint pen came on the scene.

Gradually, over the next two decades, factories which made fountain pens either shut down or switched over.

Collecting vintage fountain pens has become a popular hobby worldwide, with associa-

tions of pen collectors springing up everywhere.

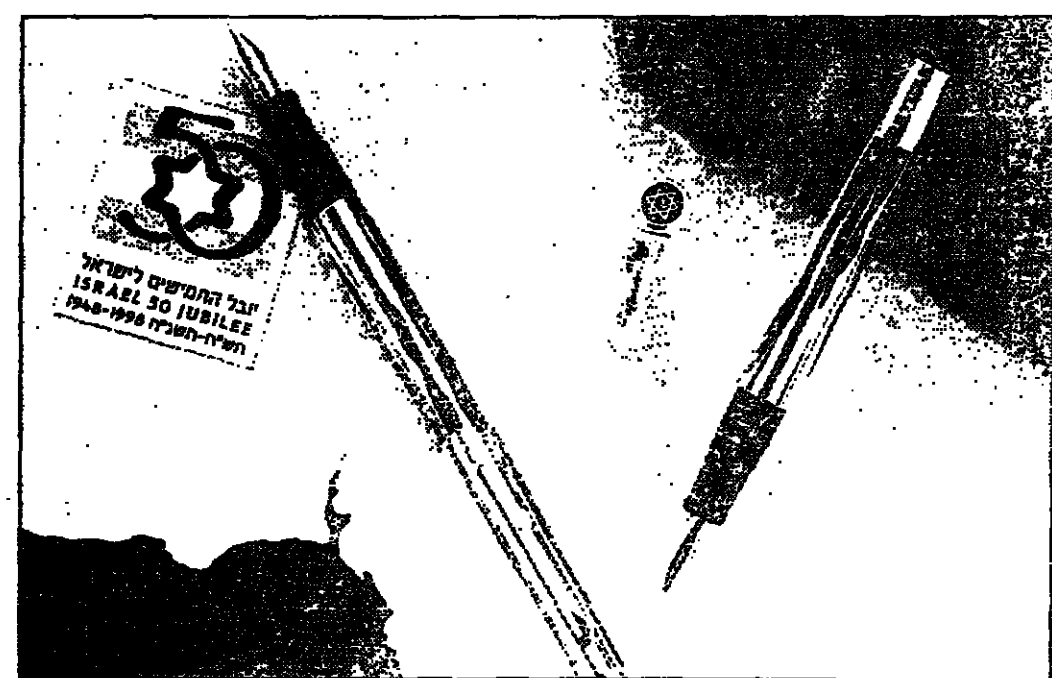
Nearly every month, somewhere in the world, there's a show for collectors. Famous collectors, living and deceased, include Bill Cosby, Frank Sinatra, Prince Charles, Pablo Picasso, and former US president Ronald Reagan.

Fountain pen enthusiasts can pay thousands of dollars and travel far to obtain a pen they've set their hearts on. The value of a pen depends on brand, model, craftsmanship and value of the

materials used.

Relatively new fountain pens are also sold and traded. Most gain their value from being part of a "limited edition," where a factory manufactures only a certain number of pens to mark a special occasion.

Using a fountain pen seems charmingly old-fashioned in the computer age. But its status as a prestigious luxury item does make sense. Since people use pens much more rarely, they like their handwriting to be impressive and personal. —A.K.S.



The 50th anniversary pen: Only 1948 are being produced, in sterling silver or 18-carat gold.

## Dana's writing dreams

When Shimon Dana received his first fountain pen at the age of 12 and began using it, he knew at once that he would never view it as just a tool for doing schoolwork. He quickly became an enthusiastic collector of writing instruments.

His hobby grew into a business in 1980, as he became involved in the trading, buying and international selling of vintage fountain pens.

Three years ago he realized his dream: He opened a pen store on Tel Aviv's Dizengoff St., and also founded the Israeli Pen Lovers' Club. So far the organization has held two meetings, drawing 300-400 people.

This year another dream of Dana's will see fruition: design-

ing a special luxury commemorative pen for Israel's 50th anniversary. It wasn't an easy task, he says.

"It was difficult finding a major pen company that would agree to manufacture my design: they saw it as political, and worried about losing customers in the Arab world."

Finally Dana found an Italian company specializing in limited-edition pens that agreed to take on the project.

Only 1948 pens are being produced — the limited number will enhance their value with time.

Some of the special fountain pens will be made of sterling silver, and some of 18-carat gold; rollerball pens will also be produced in silver and gold.

The pens are decorated with

the logo of the 50th jubilee, a Magen David, and the seven flames of the menorah. Their prices will range from approximately \$1,000 — \$6,000, depending on the type of pen and the materials used. Pens purchased in Israel will cost slightly less.

As the local standard-bearer for quality pens, Dana admits "it hurt" to see Yitzhak Rabin sign the 1993 Oslo peace agreement with a plastic blue Pilot Pen pulled out of his pocket. But "it suited Rabin, it was his style."

After that episode, Dana reports, Rabin was supplied with more dignified Waterman pens. Dana believes that future historic documents signed by Israeli leaders will feature writing instruments more appropriate to the occasion. —A.K.S.



## Not a puff piece

There are some news stories that one can bet wouldn't get half as much media play if they didn't occur during a week when there was absolutely nothing else going on.

That is why the sleepy Pessah week was the perfect time for everybody to get into a huff about the cigar budget of the prime minister.

Outcrites were heard across the land at the extravagance of Bibi's fondness for lighting up cigars at the office and the nearly NIS 12,000 each month that this habit was costing the taxpayer, according to the "scoop" broken by Yediot Aharonot.

According to the article, the tobacco budget was so high because not only Netanyahu but also his young henchmen, cabinet secretary Dan Naveh, and spokesman Shai Bazak, as well as former bureau chief Avigdor Lieberman, like to puff away on stogies as well.

something about cigar smoking that to the bystander (I can't speak for the smoker himself because I've never tried a cigar) induces profound nausea, far beyond the mere irritation of cigarette smoke.

The worst part about cigars is that no matter how bad they smell when someone is smoking them, you can count on the fact that the odor which lingers afterwards will be even worse.

If Bibi is really a constant cigar smoker, then I suppose Sara's cleaning obsession is a bit more understandable.

My grandfather was a cigar man, and for all her cleaning and scrubbing, my grandma could never get the smell out of the house. And because a cigar is not neatly packaged with a filter like a cigarette, one was forever fishing little bits of tobacco out of the upholstery in my grandparent's furniture and finding chewed-up soggy little stubs around the house.

### Home Front



Allison Kaplan Sommer

**Political commentators, grouchy with post-Seder indigestion, opined that the PM's cigar consumption symbolized all that was corrupt, hedonistic and nouveau riche about the nation's current regime**

Political commentators, grouchy with post-Seder indigestion, opined that the cigar consumption symbolized all that was corrupt and hedonistic and nouveau riche about the nation's current regime.

To all the outraged condemnations and sophisticated commentary on this festival of cigar smoke, I would like to add my personal, thought-out, carefully considered opinion: YUCK.

Yes, spending so much on cigars is extravagant, and yes, perhaps it is inappropriate behavior for our nation's leader, but my main reaction upon learning how much smoke is flying around the prime minister's suite of offices was basic physical revulsion.

If I ever had any journalistic curiosity to penetrate the corridors of power, to hang around the Prime Minister's Office and be privy to the decisions being made behind closed doors, that desire evaporated when I heard about all those cigars.

They must be pretty darn smelly corridors, especially when the door is closed.

Chomping on a cigar is one of those habits that men perceive as being really masculine and therefore attractive to women, but which most women I know find annoying at best and disgusting at worst.

Health hazards aside, there is

My father went through a brief cigar phase, but happily he soon switched to a pipe - not necessarily a more healthy choice, but a far more fragrant one. Even more happily, soon after switching, he stopped smoking tobacco altogether.

After the Yediot article appeared and the sense of public outrage was reaching a climax, word came from the Prime Minister's Office that the cigar budget has been canceled (they claim it was far less than the NIS 12,000).

I, for one, was relieved. I had been wrestling with the question of what I would do if, should I ever land an interview with the prime minister of Israel, he lit up one of those foul sticks in front of me.

I decided that I would take along my Gulf War gas mask, just in case.

Even more relieved than I am must be the person who leaked this story to the press - one wonders if it was a political enemy who truly wanted to embarrass Netanyahu, or merely a poor staffer tired of choking in a polluted atmosphere.

If it was the latter, then the news that the cigars will no longer flow freely in the office must have that worker breathing a sigh of relief.

Breathing deeply.



A mannequin becomes Queen Elizabeth I with a costume and wax head from Lania D'Agostino, right, helped by the wardrobe supervisor of the museum where the queen will hold court. (The Baltimore Sun)

## Give her a break!

**Who would go to a plastic surgeon who has no medical degree? Only a dummy, writes Brenda J. Buote**

Lania D'Agostino, one of Baltimore's busiest plastic surgeons, works in a dirty, dusty studio. She operates without anesthesia, without her clients' consent and without a medical degree. Her patients are all dummies. They have to be to seek her expertise.

D'Agostino makes her living improving the appearances of mannequins and creating new ones for a diverse clientele: from backyard gardeners to museum curators. Her shop is a cluttered cross between a warehouse and the laboratory of a mad scientist. Every nook and cranny of the 3,000-square-foot space is filled with lifeless models and plaster limbs in need of repair.

"When I was younger, I studied sculpture. This seemed like a natural extension of that," said D'Agostino, 40, who attended Maryland Institute, College of Art. Her career with dummies began more than a decade ago, when she was a cash-strapped college student.

In the beginning, D'Agostino worked for the founders of what is now Mannequin Service Co. When they retired in 1986, D'Agostino continued the business. Over the years, the company that was started in a long-abandoned chicken shack has grown into a business that repairs hundreds of mannequins each year for department stores across the country and as far as England and France.

If you've ever been to Bloomingdale's, Hecht's, Macy's or Sears, you've probably seen D'Agostino's work. They've all sent battered models to her shop for repair. The most common cosmetic surgery performed at Mannequin Service Co. is a nose job, followed by touch-ups to the ears and fingers. The delicate

operations can take a week to complete and cost as much as \$200.

When faced with a limb suffering from fractures that, if left untreated, would spread with fatal results, D'Agostino uses a knife to remove crushed and broken material. She fills the gaping wounds with fiberglass or plaster and lets them dry. Next, an assistant sands the body parts and hangs them in the "spraying area," a closetlike structure that resembles a medieval torture device.

**D'Agostino's 'clinic' conjures up a mad scientist's laboratory, with lifeless models and limbs scattered everywhere**

The lifeless forms hang from a book as the assistant, wearing an apron and surgical mask, sprays a ghostly white primer over them. Then more sanding. Finally, flesh tones are added. When the parts are dry, they are placed on a metal table, where D'Agostino gets down to the serious business of giving the mannequin a personality.

It can take her three hours to get the facial expression right. A face lift is usually far less expensive than a new mannequin. The fiberglass figures cost an average of \$850, but can command as much as \$1,500 for a custom-made model. According to D'Agostino, the average life of a mannequin made of resin and fiberglass is five years. Their constant use demands that they get a makeover every couple of months.

The Jamestown Settlement, a museum that displays artifacts from 17th-century Virginia, recently asked D'Agostino to create a torso for Queen Elizabeth's waxen head. A lifeless form resembling a prepubescent teen-ager was selected for the job - molded to the proper size and shape with a saw and sandpaper. Royalty graced the shop less than a week. "Once they have clothes on," D'Agostino said, "they have to get out of here."

D'Agostino's wide-ranging and eclectic clientele extends beyond department stores and museums. "You never know who's going to come in," D'Agostino said. "Lawyers use mannequins for accident reenactments. Farmers use them to scare deer off their property. And other people buy them for all kinds of reasons."

Nelson Goldberg, a licensed plastic surgeon, bought a mannequin for the sidecar of his Harley-Davidson motorcycle. "I don't think sidecars look right without something or somebody in them," Goldberg said. "To have groceries or tennis equipment is OK, but to have nothing is no good."

So Goldberg bought "Little Dummy Boy," a mannequin about the size of an 8-year-old child, and dressed it in some of his son's old clothes: a pair of worn pants and a red Snoopy T-shirt. The ensemble was completed with a blue motorcycle helmet. "Some people can tell it's a mannequin, some can't," Goldberg said.

"On more than one hot afternoon at the tennis club, I've heard people question how a person could leave his child in a sidecar. Wherever I go, it seems to draw attention."

(The Baltimore Sun)

## GRAPEVINE

By GREER LEVINE

According to Chaim Shkedi, general manager of the King David Hotel, no VIP guest has been as undemanding and easy to serve as visiting British Prime Minister Tony Blair. The hotel management was astounded by one of the requests prior to the arrival of the Blair entourage: for an iron and ironing board to be installed in the suite.

Blair took time out of a tight schedule to inaugurate the UJIA Blair Fellowships, and said he was thrilled and honored because "I've never had a scholarship named after me before." He quipped that he could think of many teachers he'd had at school who would protest vigorously.

The photo opportunity at the end of the ceremony turned into a chat session between Blair and a group of young British volunteers. Officials tried unsuccessfully to extricate Blair from the crowd of British visitors and expatriates who enveloped him and shook his hand.

Smiling happily throughout, Blair took his time leaving, and detoured to give a big hug and a kiss to Jenny Tabachnik, wife of Eldred Tabachnik, president of the Board of Deputies of British Jews. Prior to becoming prime minister Blair was in Tabachnik's chambers, and the two families have been friends for years.

DEFENSE Minister Yitzhak Mordechai, who tasted Mimouna delicacies in both Ashdod and Yavne, seems to be rushing from celebration to celebration. Last week, he was hailed as a national hero at the Kurdish community's Saharane festivities in Ein Hemed, and not just because he is of Kurdish extraction. Of all the ministers invited, Mordechai was the only one who showed up.

Former prime minister Yitzhak Shamir also braved the intense heat to do honor to the Kurds.

PRIME Minister Binyamin Netanyahu was not the only member of the government to vacation in Eilat last week. Industry and Trade Minister Nathan Sharansky was also there. While Netanyahu and his family went camel riding, Sharansky opted for something more adventurous: paragliding.

WHEN Auschwitz survivor Jacques Stroumsa was invited to play the violin at the opening of the France-Israel House in Paris, he had no idea that he would be closing a circle in his life. Stroumsa, who played first violin in the Auschwitz Symphony Orchestra, was known both during and after the war as "the violinist of Auschwitz."

A native of Salonika, Greece, he settled in Israel after the war and worked for the Jerusalem Municipality for 30 years until his retirement. But he never abandoned the violin to which he owed his life. One of the people who heard him play in Paris in 1992 was Baron Guy de Rothschild. He was so profoundly taken with Stroumsa's story that when he went home he sat down and wrote the outline for a novel based on the Stroumsa saga. He did nothing further about it until 1995, when he sat down to flesh out the outline. The end result was *Le fantôme de Lea* (The Ghost of Lea), largely based on Stroumsa's wartime experiences. The book was published three weeks ago.

De Rothschild met with Stroumsa prior to the release of the volume and then again this week at the Mishkenot Restaurant to present him with a copy. Other guests included Jerusalem Foundation president Teddy Kollek and director Ruth Cheshin, television, radio and stage personality Emanuel Halperin and Jon Feder from Keter Publishing. De Rothschild spoke about the plot of his work of fiction, and Stroumsa shared a few of the facts behind the story. But

he surprised the author when he related that, as a youth, he had studied in Paris. Because he was poor and could not afford to finance his studies, he applied for a scholarship. His benefactor: de Rothschild's mother.

THE fashion house of Rosh Indiani is so enamored with supermodel Shiraz Tal that they've flown her in from the U.S. for tonight's megashow salute to 50 years of Israeli fashion at the Joshua Gardens, Tel Aviv. In addition to the country's topline models, the show will feature several former queens of the runway who can still strut their stuff. In order to do her patriotic duty, Tal postponed the shoot for an important fashion catalogue. The fact that she was able to do so indicates her clout. No wonder Rosh Indiani's managing director, Nissim Mizrahi, was willing to fork out for a first-class fare.

JERUSALEM-based artist Hadassah Levine, who for many years directed the fund-raising efforts of the Friends of the Israel Museum, was pleasantly surprised to learn that one of her paintings has been donated by its former owners to the Jewish Museum in Port Elizabeth, South Africa. Prior to its present incarnation, the museum was the synagogue which Levine attended in her youth. She is the first artist with Port Elizabeth roots to be exhibited at the Jewish Museum.



Actor Topol, left, with Mayor Olmert and a member of the cast at G.G. Studios.

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FOUNDERS of the state are being honored in different ways next week by the Israel Bonds mega-delegation. Esther Herlitz and Teddy Kollek will be lauded at a special dinner at the Jerusalem Renaissance hotel to which Amos Ben-Gurion, Ra'anana Leshem Ben-Gurion, Gushla Ben-Eliezer, Menahem Meir and Sarah Rahavi, the children of David Ben-Gurion and Golda Meir, respectively, have also been invited.

IT may take a long time before Nevech Ilan becomes the Hollywood of the Middle East, but all things being relative, it's not doing too badly. Jerusalem mayor Ehud Olmert was quite buoyed up when he visited the set of *The Time Machine: Jerusalem 3000* at G.G. Studios in Nevech Ilan, where he met members of the cast, including Chaim Topol, the star of the show, who is juggling the filming with the stage revival of *Tevya*, one of his most famous roles.



Jacques Stroumsa, left, shares an anecdote with Baron Guy de Rothschild. (Vera Etzion)

## CITY OF STONE book department



Meron Benvenisti, Jerusalem's resident researcher and former Deputy Mayor, overcomes in his latest book the legacy of self-interest and writes an unofficial history of Jerusalem and its inhabitants, from those walking the streets today to the ghosts that still inhabit the Holy City. Hardcover, 263 pp.

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## A widower's dilemma

Dear Ruthie,  
I lost my wife of 40 years to cancer a bit less than a year ago. My problem is that since her funeral, many of her friends have expressed a romantic interest in me. This completely shocked me at first. I was never any sort of "ladies' man" to begin with. But now that I am 70, I find it even more incomprehensible that I am being pursued.

At first I thought this had to do with the fact that I am well off financially. But some of these women have far more money than I, so it can't be that. Another problem I have is that I come from a generation of men which believed that the man - not the woman - should do the courting. I am extremely uncomfortable with women who make the first move. On the other hand, I am afraid to do the courting, as I would not want any woman to get the false impression that I am committing myself to anything other than a pleasant evening out.

Yet I have to admit that I am lonely. Living for so many years with a marvelous companion, I find it difficult to be alone. Perhaps you have some suggestions for an "old dog" like me, who just doesn't know how to handle these "new tricks."

Old Dog

Somewhere in Israel

Dear Tricky Dog,  
The fact that you are tying yourself in knots is more indicative of your being human than it is of your being an "old dog." You, like most of us, are playing an internal game of "hide and seek" between your head and your gut. Aside from being exhausting and frustrating, it tends to turn even the simplest of issues into complex dilemmas. And the best way to deal with the internal tangle is to begin to untie each knot separately.

Your first order of business, then, is to examine each point you raised as though it were disconnected

from the others. Point one: you are available; point two: you are lonely; point three: women are interested in your company. These factors - when divorced of emotional baggage - are not only uncomplicated, they should serve as a source of genuine optimism.

However, since your gut is happy to take even the most optimistic of circumstances and to turn them into sources of malaise, it is the other points you raised that must be dealt with in earnest. These are the ones working to prevent you from getting on with your social life, free of misery.

Mentioning that you were never a "ladies' man" can mean one of two things. Either you consider being a "ladies' man" to be negative, or you considered yourself not particularly attractive to women before you got married. This may explain why your initial response to the attentions of women was to suspect that they were after your money. You feel

more comfortable being the pursuer than the pursued. Yet, you are hesitant to take this initiative for fear of giving a woman false hopes regarding your long-term intentions. This indicates to me that you have a firm set of internal rules and regulations which may have little to do with actual social interaction.

Consider the possibility that your driving force in life has been to be beyond reproach where people are concerned in general, and with the opposite sex in particular. Perhaps this is also causing you to feel disloyal to your late wife for even harboring the idea of being with another woman.

If you can make even partial headway in separating your fears and guilt feelings from your daily circumstances, you might be able to have a few pleasant evenings out.

Letters should be addressed to: "Dear Ruthie," POB 81, Jerusalem 91000. For E-mail: ruthie@jpost.co.il ("Dear Ruthie" also appears in *In Jerusalem* and in *City Lights on Fridays*.)



Ruthie Blum

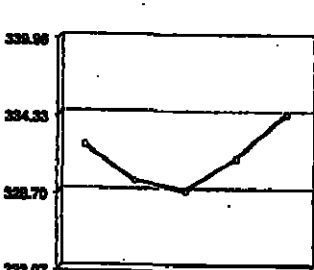
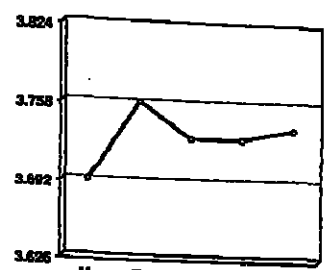


## MARKETS

in brief

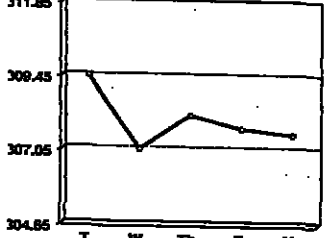
DOLLAR / SHEKEL

MAOF INDEX



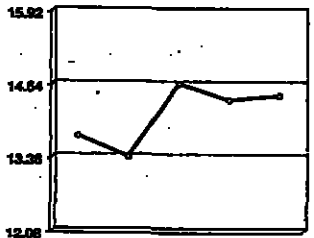
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\$ per ounce

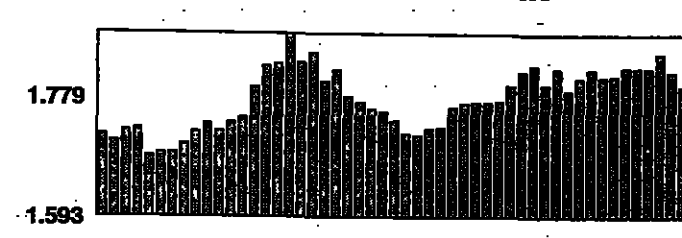


OIL

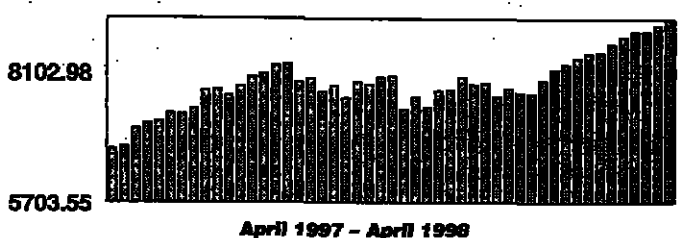
\$ per barrel of Brent crude



DOLLAR / DEUTSCHEMARK



DOW JONES INDUST. AVG.



### DSP 1st quarter net rises 8.9% to \$6.7m.

DSP Communications yesterday announced that net income for the first quarter of 1998 rose 8.9 percent to \$6.7 million, up from \$6.1m. a year ago. Meanwhile, revenues rose 14% to \$23m.

DSP chairman and CEO Nathan Hod said that the results reflect the continued strength in the Japanese digital cellular telephone market as well as the developing market in the United States.

DSP is a developer of chip sets and products for cellular and personal communication services. *Dan Gerstenfeld*

### Mexicans here for free-trade talks

Israel and Mexico resumed talks yesterday in Jerusalem on a free-trade agreement, the Industry and Trade Ministry said. A five-member delegation from Mexico has arrived for the three days of discussions, which are to focus on market access, rules of origin, and trade in services.

The talks were launched when Industry and Trade Minister Nathan Sharansky visited in Mexico last September.

Exports to Mexico rose 22% in the first quarter of the year. In 1997, Israel exported \$73 million to Mexico and imported only \$7m. *Nina Gilbert*

## D&B chooses Check Point, Efrat, Cellcom as '97 best performers

By DAN GERSTENFELD

Check Point Software Technologies, Efrat Future Technology and Cellcom Israel were chosen by Dun and Bradstreet (D&B) as the "best performers" in 1997, according to its list of Israel's largest enterprises published yesterday.

The 18th annual report includes the names of Israel's 150 largest industrial enterprises according to income from sales and the 150 largest trading and service companies.

Check Point, which made the list for the first time, was ranked as the 62nd largest industrial company and showed the sharpest increase in exports, surging 161 percent to \$82.1 million.

Efrat, which rose from 49th place in 1996 to 37th last year among the industrial companies, recorded a 59% increase in sales.

With revenues of \$195m., the electronics company was one of the 10 industrial companies which presented the highest growth in sales.

Cellcom, the cellular telephone provider, continued to report the largest growth rates in the service and trade sector with an increase of 101.1% in sales last year to \$609.8m., making it the ninth largest company in this sector.

In the report, D&B general manager David Bondi said the slower expansion of the economy is well reflected in the lower growth rates of the leading Israeli companies, with aggregate income of the top 150 industrial companies increasing by only 5% in real terms over last year's figure.

Bezeq maintained its place as Israel's largest company, despite the fact that sales dropped 1.6% last year to \$2.47 billion. Bezeq was followed by the Israel Electric Corp. and Israel Oil Refineries.

The other companies on the list are: Tnuva Food Industries, Israel Aircraft Industries, Zim Israel Navigation Company, Blue Square Israel, Super-Sol, El Al and Teva Pharmaceutical Industries. Teva, which last year recorded a 17% increase in earnings, made its first appearance in the list of the country's 10 largest companies, replacing Tadiran.

Six of the 10 largest companies reported last year that earnings rose by less than 4%, reflecting the slowing economy. D&B said, however, that the big food retailers continued to grow in 1997, despite a decline in private consumption - with Blue Square Israel and Super-Sol increasing earnings by 12% and 22% respectively.

Total revenues for the leading 10 companies rose 6% to \$16.6b. from \$15.7b. a year earlier. This increase in mainly attributed to a rise in sales of the IAI, Teva and the retail chains, which raised their revenues by an average of 15%. Despite the rise in revenues, the number of employees in the largest 10 firms rose by only 4.5%, which is mainly attributed to an increase of 2,800 workers in Super-Sol and Blue Square.



British Prime Minister Tony Blair and Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman confer during a meeting with several of the country's leading businessmen in Jerusalem yesterday. Blair told the audience that he will consider any suggestions for ways to increase bilateral trade and direct investments. *(Brian Hendler)*

## Blair: Let's double trade this decade

By DAVID HARRIS

British Prime Minister Tony Blair yesterday called on Israel and the UK to double bilateral trade over the coming decade.

Given the increase in trade in recent years, Blair said this is a perfectly reasonable target.

Speaking to Israel's top businessmen in Jerusalem, Blair said the annual \$2.1b. trade volume is remarkable given the tricky political situation in the region. For this achievement he thanked the Israel-Britain Business Council (IBBC) and the relevant chambers of commerce.

While the regional focus is very much on the peace process there is still "enormous bilateral trade and business done between both countries," said Blair.

Blair was responding to a request from Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman that the two countries work to reduce Israel's trade deficit with Britain of some \$750 million, excluding diamonds.

"Israeli industry is ready and prepared to increase trade with your country," Neeman told Blair.

He then asked the British prime minister to consider the early implementation of two agreements, "a scientific, defense research and development agreement, which I hope will be signed shortly, and the creation of a bilateral industrial research and development fund. I think these would be the two most important steps towards making a closer economic relationship."

Blair did not make any commitments but promised to "consider both of these very carefully."

Following the meeting, Neeman said the defense research agreement, currently under discussion, is similar to those already in place with several other nations. The R&D fund would be run on a similar basis to the joint fund with the US.

Turning to the businessmen, Blair said he had come to listen to their views and take back to Britain some of their ideas on ways "to increase trade and promote investment."

During the ensuing debate, which was closed to journalists, discussions centered on the need to work closely with businessmen in the Palestinian-controlled areas, according to IBBC co-chairman Dan Propper.

Participants also spoke of the need for joint operations between Israelis and Britons to work with Jordanians and Egyptians.

## 6.5% more jobseekers in March

By DAVID HARRIS

The number of people actively seeking work increased 6.5 percent last month to 163,401, according to figures published yesterday by the Employment Service.

The 10,000 increase on the previous month was added to by an increase in the number of unemployment pockets - areas where unemployment is higher than 10% - to 20 from 18 in February. The list includes Ein Mahil (14.1%), Yeroham (13.2%), and Or Akiva and Rahat (both with 12.7%).

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu last night expressed his concern about the figures, but noted there are fewer jobseekers in areas where the government is implementing job-creation programs. For the last two months, for example, Ofakim has dropped from the over 10% unemployment list.

Former Labor Party secretary-general Nissim Zivili yesterday called for an emergency Knesset debate on unemployment, accusing the government of destroying the economy and citing the jobseeker figures as proof of its failings.

Histadrut Chairman Amir Peretz said the responsibility for the increase lies firmly with Bank of Israel Governor Jacob Frenkel, suggesting his push for lower inflation rates is leaving thousands of people without work.

Unemployment in Eilat (2.6%), Jerusalem (3.1%), and Tel Aviv (3.7%) remained the lowest in the country.

Meanwhile, the Union of Local Authorities in Israel yesterday announced that the number of people turning to municipal welfare offices for support increased 30% to 255,000 during the first four months of the year, in comparison to the same period last year.

### MINISTRY OF HEALTH

SPOKESMAN'S BUREAU

#### ORDER FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF PRICES OF GOODS AND SERVICES (TEMPORARY ORDER) (MAXIMUM PRICES OF MEDICAL SERVICES) (AMENDMENT) - 1998

Pursuant to our authority according to clause 12 (a) (1) of the Supervision of Prices of Goods and Services Law (1996), and in consultation with the Pricing Committee according to Clause 13 of the Law, we hereby order:

1. The Order for the Establishment of Prices of Goods and Services (Temporary Order) (Maximum Prices of Medical Services) - 1993 (hereinafter - the principal order) is to be known as the "Order of Supervision of Prices of Goods and Services (Maximum Prices of Medical Services) - 1998".
2. The maximum price for a catheterization as detailed in item 9 of the addendum to the principal order is NIS 21,187.

Commencement 3. This order is effective from April 21, 1998.  
Yaakov Neeman Minister of Finance  
Yehoshua Metzger Minister of Health

1. Law Code 5756, page 192  
2. Collection of Regulations 1993, page 875; 1994, page 628

## Akzo Nobel to buy Courtaulds for £2.26b.

AMSTERDAM (Bloomberg) - Akzo Nobel NV, the biggest Dutch chemical company, agreed yesterday to buy Courtaulds Plc for £2.26 billion in cash and assumed debt to create the world's largest maker of paints.

The 450 pence-per-share offer, two weeks after the companies said they were discussing a merger at that price, would form a business that leapfrogs Britain's Imperial Chemical Industries Plc in the market for paints and coatings.

Akzo also said it will combine Courtaulds' fibers unit with its own and probably spin off that business.

The move is the latest in a spate of acquisitions in the specialty-chemicals industry, as companies seek expansion in higher value-added businesses.

Just this year, Switzerland's Ciba Specialty Chemicals AG outbid Hercules Inc. to buy a UK rival, Allied Colloids Plc, while Yule Catto Plc acquired Holliday Chemical Holdings Plc.

Akzo's plan is "a logical fit, it's earnings-enhancing in the first

year and it's hard to see any other companies coming in with a counterbid," said Geoff Haire, an analyst at Goldman, Sachs & Co.

Still, the British company's shares rose as much as nine pence to 451.5, exceeding the Akzo offer in an indication investors think a higher bid is possible. Akzo shares rose as much as 22.1 guilders, or six percent, to 435.2.

Haire said any possible counterbidder would be saddled with the unprofitable textile-fibers operations. Akzo already has extensive fibers operations, while other companies that analysts have suggested might seek Courtaulds - including BASF AG, Sherwin-Williams Co., PPG Industries Inc. and Imperial Chemical Industries Plc - do not.

"The market is saying there may be a counterbid, but I'm not convinced of it," said Michael Eastwood, an analyst at Dresdner Kleinwort Benson.

Cornelis Antonius van Lede, Akzo's chairman and chief executive, said Akzo wanted to buy Courtaulds for years, but the UK company's stock price was too high.

"Courtaulds has come down and Akzo is higher now, so it made sense today," he said at a news conference in the Netherlands.

Talks between Courtaulds and Akzo Nobel follow the British company's decision, announced on February 25, to split itself into three parts to revive its share price, which slumped by more than half between April 1994 and early this year.

Courtaulds also said then that it planned to sell its polymers business and cut costs in its fibers and chemicals business.

"Fibers have been hit by declining demand and overcapacity in the market, where the UK company competes with Lenzing AG of Austria and other makers.

## Microsoft to invest \$7.5m. in Israeli venture capital fund

By NINA GILBERT

Microsoft Corp. is to make the founding investment of \$7.5 million in a new Israeli venture capital fund, Orion, which will focus on Internet start-up companies, Microsoft's No. 2 official Steve Ballmer announced yesterday.

"One of the key reasons for Microsoft's decision to make its first-ever investment in a venture capital fund, specifically in Israel, is this country's position as second only to the US in the world in development of Internet-related technologies," said Ballmer, executive vice president for sales and support at the Redmond, Washington-based company.

The Israel Orion Fund aims to enlist a total of \$100 million and a few other leading companies are

poised to join in soon, fund managing partner Eyal Levy said. The fund will invest primarily in Israeli and Israeli-related companies involved in the development of Internet-related technologies, products and services.

Microsoft will have an option to invest another \$7.5m in the fund's projects.

"Through involvement in the fund, Microsoft will have an advantage in early access to new technologies," Levy said.

Levy said that while companies receiving funds are not obligated to have a relationship with Microsoft or other investors "it will certainly provide opportunities for cooperation and strategic partnerships."

Ballmer, ranked as the sixth-richest man in the United States by

Forbes magazine, was speaking at Ben-Gurion Airport after arriving for his first visit here. He said his boss, Bill Gates, would not be visiting Israel any time soon, due to his limited traveling schedule, which is set a year in advance.

Ballmer said Israel still has a high rate of software piracy compared with other Western countries, with the rate of unlicensed use at about 69%.

"This amounts to a loss of some \$50 million a year to Microsoft," he said.

He said the only way to make progress against this practice is through educating users.

The fund will be managed by Levy, Boaz Mishol, and Gary Leibler. Aura Investments Research and Development Ltd. will be a partner in the fund.

## Levhari: Gov't talks Thatcherism, does little

By Jerusalem Post staff

Leading Hebrew University economist David Levhari yesterday urged the Netanyahu government to be more Thatcherite in its attitude to the economy.

"The present government talks free market, but nothing drastic has occurred," Levhari told journalists in Jerusalem. "When Netanyahu came to power he talked like Thatcher but hasn't acted like Thatcher."

While the government is privatizing some companies, it is failing to involve the public, it is not breaking up the monopolies and it is not getting foreign banks to enter the Israeli market.

The government is "hunting" billionaires, and not floating or breaking companies down into more competitive units," said

Levhari. Selling companies to individual investors can even be a negative step, as such investors can then do what they please with the companies' assets, possibly to the detriment of the public.

A supporter of the options privatization method, Levhari said he sees little change between the policies of Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman and his predecessors Dan Meridor (Likud) and Avraham Shohat (Labor).

Turning to the utilities, Levhari said the monopolies must be broken up into smaller sectors, with each being opened to competition: for example, rather than having one body (currently Israel Electric Corporation) responsible for the entire electricity industry, it should be divided into the generation and distribution businesses, with providers being allowed to

compete with one another.

Furthermore, by establishing free-trade arrangements with neighboring countries, the government can effectively break the strangleholds of monopolies on the cement, glass and other construction-related industries.

Concerning the remainder of 1998, Levhari predicted unemployment would rise until at least the end of the third quarter.

Levhari concluded that government would follow the usual political cycle by preparing sweeteners for 1999, the year before the next scheduled general election.

While this year the economic slowdown will continue, next year the government will relax its tight fiscal grip on the economy and release funds for investment in infrastructure, he said.

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) requires the services of a Personal Services Contractor to work on the management and implementation of Democracy and Governance programs in the West Bank and Gaza.

The position is located in Tel Aviv.

#### Requirements:

- ★ At least a bachelor's degree in political science, public administration or a related field.
- ★ Three to five years of progressively responsible experience working in the design and/or management and/or evaluation of development programs or a related field, preferably with an international development organization, part of which should have been in the West Bank or Gaza.
- ★ Fluency in English and Arabic.

Only responses that include a detailed curriculum vitae and employment and salary history for the past three years will be considered.

Responses must be received no later than May 6, 1998 at: Personnel Office, American Embassy, 71 Hayarkon Street, Tel Aviv.

Reading between the lines... you have time for trading action until 11 PM.



ISRAEL DISCOUNT BANK



## Building Blocks

By Nina Gilbert

## JERUSALEM AREA

■ A five-room duplex/penthouse with a view in the Armona neighborhood on Rehov Leib Yaffe was sold for \$362,000 by Century 21. The asking price was \$380,000. The 135-sq.m. home is on the third floor with an elevator and a total of 60 sq.m. of porches.

■ The agency also sold a 168-sq.m. six-room cottage in the Ein Hemed section of Mevaseret Zion for \$350,000. The home has a 100-sq.m. garden with two enclosed parking spots. A six-room 152-sq.m. cottage in Ma'aleh Adumim with a view was sold for \$244,000.

■ In Ramot, a six-room 200-sq.m. cottage with a garden on Rehov Zarihi was sold for \$417,000 by RE/MAX. The agency also sold a four-room apartment on Rehov Hai Taib Street in Har Nof for \$227,000. The apartment is on the third floor in a building with an elevator.

■ In Pisgat Ze'ev, a four-room apartment on Sderot Moshe Zion was sold for \$158,000 by Century 21. The 110-sq.m. apartment has an elevator, parking and a view.

## TEL AVIV and center

■ In Ramat Hasharon, a three-and-a-half room apartment with a room on the roof on Rehov Ben-Haim, a noisy street, was sold for \$295,000. The apartment is on the sixth floor, with an elevator, and has a 25 sq.m. roof, and 90 sq.m. on the lower level.

■ The Oneal building company, part of the Fishman Group, has sold 177 apartments for a total of \$32 million in the Rehovot Yerukim project, in southeast Rehovot. In February and March, seven apartments and a commercial area were sold. Two five-room apartments were sold for \$182,000 each, and another five five-room apartments were sold for \$174,000. The project includes 200 apartments, 22 of which are still for sale, in seven high-rise buildings. There is a public park on the grounds.

■ In Tel Aviv, a two-room 70-sq.m. apartment on Rehov Epstein, a quiet location near Kikar Hamedina, was sold via tender for \$230,000. The apartment, assessed at \$225,000, is on the third floor with an elevator and in need of renovations.

■ In Herzliya, a five-room 200-sq.m. villa on Rehov David Raziel was rented for \$1,000 by Century 21. The house has a large front yard and a well-kept garden in the backyard.

## INDUSTRY and COMMERCE

■ American-Israel Bank Ltd., a member of the Bank Hapoalim Group, has moved into its new headquarters and main branch at 28a Rothschild Blvd. in Tel Aviv. The move to the new premises, where some NIS 30 million was invested, is part of the bank's efficiency measures and the first time management is located in one building. The bank, which specializes in foreign currency, securities and business clientele, has 18 branches around the country.

■ Partner, the third cellular phone operator, is in the final stages of negotiations to lease premises from Mivnei Ta'asiya in Rosh Ha'ayin's Kiryat Hoshen. The company said it would lease 10,000 sq.m. in the Yahalom building for its headquarters and network switchboard. Partner said it considered 15 locations for its offices. The company is presently operating out of 1,700 sq.m. in Herzliya Pituah.

■ Comart Technologies, a member of the Lod-based Incom Group, has opened offices in the Ness Ziona Technological Park. The opening is part of its Telepark project, which will supply computer services to the start-up and high-tech companies that operate in the park. Incom CEO Eli Lior said the move is part of the company's plan to specialize in offering computer-infrastructure and system-support services to high-tech companies in technological parks in the one-stop-shop method. The Ness Ziona center is manned 24 hours a day.

## Western investors to the rescue

Asia is banking on foreign money to fuel the long haul to recovery. Linda Sieg reports

Asia's financial crisis has prompted more than its share of finger-pointing but a few key points seem clear. For one thing, fixing the problems of the region's banks will be costly, painful and time-consuming.

And while many of Asia's battered economies are counting on foreign capital to help restructure their financial sectors, the success of that strategy has yet to be proved.

In the nine months since the crisis first flared in Thailand, ensnared South Korea and embroiled Indonesia, debate has raged over why the "Asian miracle" went wrong.

The region's critics point to a now-familiar litany of lax surveillance of banks, poor disclosure and "crony capitalism."

Asia's defenders argue greedy and imprudent Western lenders must share the blame. "People criticize these countries for the lack of transparency and for 'cronism.' That may be true," said Kazuo Nakazawa, a former managing director at Japanese business lobby Keidanren. "But the lack of transparency was there for over 40 years, and you can't say you didn't know that."

"This is a high risk, high return field — and lots of foreign lenders came in to lend money," Nakazawa added.

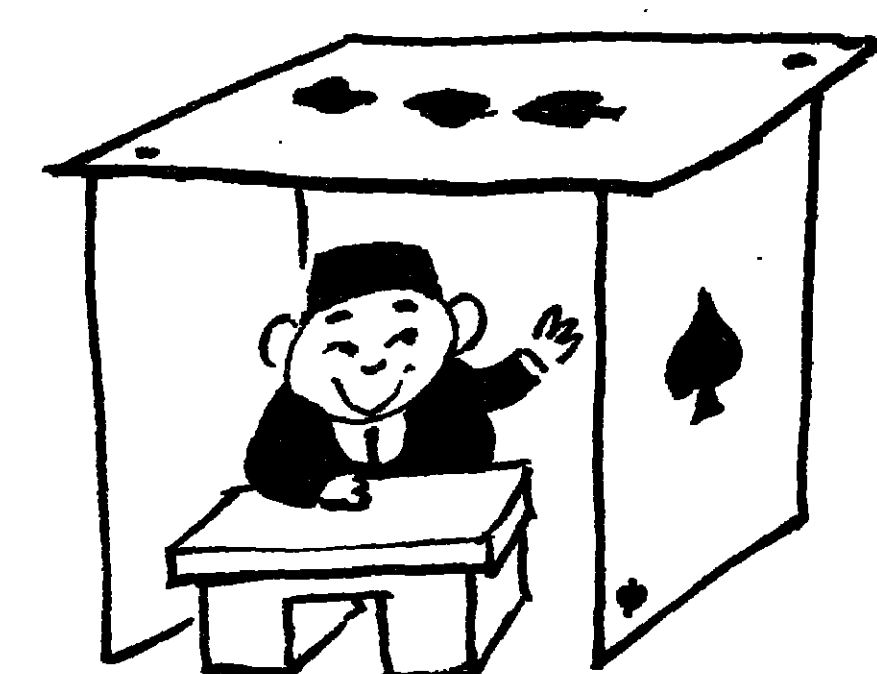
The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has become a lightning rod of discontent, with critics charging its prescriptions were both misguided and counter-productive.

"The IMF is now forcing Asian economic contraction to ensure that these Asian countries severely cut spending and consumption so that they set aside sufficient resources to repay Western creditors," said Suchart Thadathamrongvej, an economics lecturer at Ramkhamhaeng University in Bangkok.

"It's like a father bankrupt by gambling mistakes but forcing his children to take the heat," Suchart added.

Arguments over who is to blame aside, regional economies vary in the scope of their banking sector woes and the official response.

Taiwan and Singapore appear to have few of the problems faced by



MEIR RONNEN © 98

their neighbors. Thai authorities of late have received praise for their "vigorous" action, but the nation's banks confront a huge restructuring exercise.

The OECD (Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development) and others warn that Hong Kong's financial sector faces future problems from exposure to equity and property markets which could yield a hefty rise in problem loans.

Philippine banks are generally seen as relatively resilient but the sector is still poised for a shake-out and smaller banks are expected to merge to meet new rules on minimum capital and higher loan loss provisions.

Investors have been encouraged by South Korea's initial recovery from the first phase of its crisis, but some analysts fear a second phase of turmoil may be brewing from potential defaults on the country's mountains of corporate debt.

Malaysia's financial sector, meanwhile, could suffer a serious blow if growth there slows sharply, some analysts said.

"The one on the edge of a cliff is Malaysia," said Rob Subbaraman at Lehman Brothers in Tokyo.

"Malaysia's banking sector is heavily exposed to domestic debt and domestic credit to GDP ratio is 170 percent. The risk is if the economy slows too much, that could lead to a wave of corporate defaults."

Skepticism is the byword when it comes to Indonesia, which in its third agreement with the IMF earlier this month pledged to accelerate bank restructuring to stop the flow of liquidity support to banks and regain monetary control.

"The safest thing to say is, if the IMF is twice-bitten and thrice-shy and is being very guarded about the viability of the third agreement, who are we to argue with them?" said Graham Courtney, director of Asian Economics for SBC Warburg.

China, faced with bad loans in its banking sector, which may equal one-quarter of the nation's GDP, has ordered its banks to cut their bad debt and boost capital while authorities move to beef up supervision.

And Japan, with Asia's biggest economy, is saddled with a financial sector challenged by growing competition due to "Big Bang" reforms, but still bogged down in heaps of bad loans some eight years after asset prices collapsed —

hardly a source of encouragement for the rest of the region.

Japan's experience illustrates perhaps all too well the bind many Asian countries are in: Fixing the financial sector will be extremely expensive for the real economy, but a failure to do so promptly could delay real recovery.

"You could argue that one reason Japan has been so slow in moving ahead with fixing the banking sector is because of the short-term cost to GDP," Lehman's Subbaraman said.

"But the longer you postpone that, the longer it takes to get a self-sustaining recovery," he added. "Japan is in a bind and the others are too, but they may be pushed along faster by the IMF and because they actually reached a crisis situation."

Several Asian nations hope opening their financial sectors to more foreign participation will help clean up the mess.

But potential foreign buyers may shy away even at bargain-basement prices unless disclosure is improved.

"You've seen a number of international banks looking at, say, banks in Thailand and simply deciding that no reasonable offer

can be made because they don't know what's in there, either because it's impossible to figure out today technically what is the value of the assets or because books are not kept in the proper way," Philippe Delhaise, president of Thomson Bankwatch in Hong Kong, told Reuters Television recently.

"Convincing foreign investors that invitations to enter are sincere is also vital, some analysts say. 'I think they have got to work very hard to convince foreign investors to stump up the money required,' Courtney said.

"Britain showed you have to say to the foreigners — 'take me, take me.' Necessity, however, may ultimately breed success."

"They have to be very serious (about attracting foreign capital) because that's the only place they can get the money from," said Andrew Dermot Fung, regional treasury economist at Standard Chartered Bank in Singapore.

"No one has the money in the domestic system to take over all 'big banks,' he added. "Within a six-month period, we should have three or four solid deals being made and there will be a steady trickle after that." (Reuters)

## The making of a two-headed monster

The merger of financial giants Citicorp and Travelers is doomed to become yet another ridiculously bloated and inefficient company, writes Michael Lewis

The initial response to the proposed merger of Citicorp and Travelers has been pretty much the same as the initial response to any large corporate merger. When the deal is announced the critical skepticism of the few is overwhelmed by the lunatic enthusiasm of the investors and executives who have a financial interest in the deal working out.

No matter how many times giant financial mergers come to grief, the next big one will always be celebrated as if it is a singular act of genius. Sandy! John! Great idea!

But really, Has anyone said ANYTHING that really explains why Citicorp and Travelers are better off together than apart? More likely Travelers' Sandy Weill and Citicorp's John Reed have created yet another ridiculously bloated and inefficient company that will need to be raided and dismantled by the Michael Milken of the 21st century.

So far as I can tell the argument for the merger boils down to a single point: It would be neat to offer a client both commercial and investment banking services. Obviously this makes a little bit of sense. And obviously the Glass-Steagall Act is overdue for repairs.

But the only way to create this new two-headed bank is to build it slowly from within — as J.P. Morgan has been doing for the past 25 years. Putting together a large, established commercial bank with a large, established investment bank is an act of cruelty, like knocking out the wall in the zoo between the hyenas and the zebras.

To an investment banker, a commercial banker is a person who can't cut it at an investment bank. He makes no money, and, more importantly, doesn't deserve to make money. Commercial banking is, to an investment banker's way of thinking, a laughably foolish business. You lend out all this money and the best you can do is get it back with a bit of interest.

Tiny upside plus huge downside equals crappy business. Perhaps for this reason commercial bankers often wander into

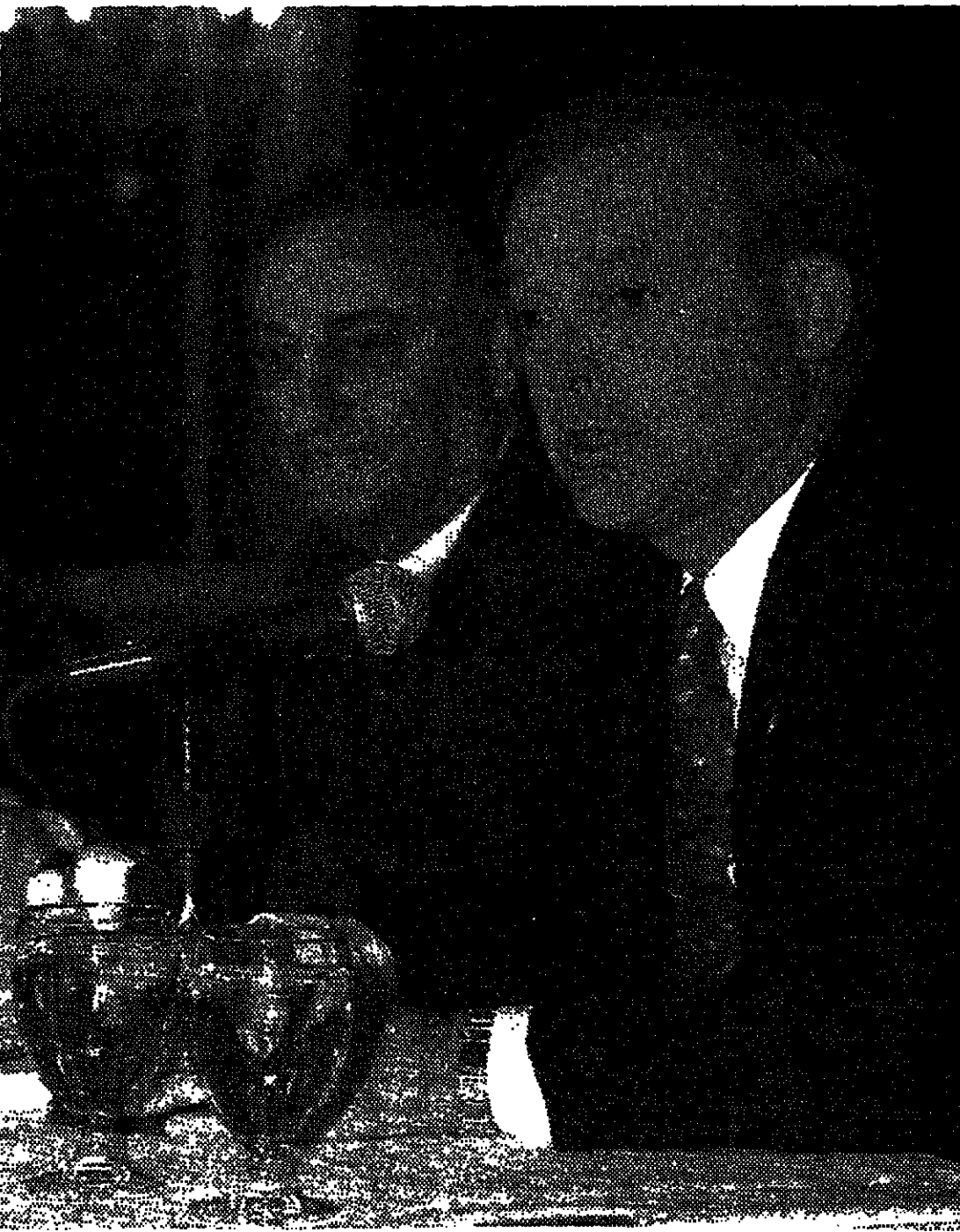
Wall Street investment banks, hoping to land a job. Seldom do you meet an investment banker who longs to work for a commercial bank.

John Reed, to an investment banker's way of thinking, is the monarch of the kingdom of fools. He is not shrewd enough, or aggressive enough, or hungry enough to be an investment banker. He is not, in a word, a winner. To a commercial banker an investment banker is a sociopath. Being a commercial banker, he won't say this, at least not normally. But feed him a Shirley Temple or two and he might say something like this: "That jerk at Goldman may have made \$20 million last year but you have to wonder if it's worth it. Look at his life! His wife hates him. He never sees his kids. All he does is work and scheme and figure out who he's going to screw next. Figuratively and literally."

Sandy Weill, to a commercial banker's way of thinking, is a sharpster with an Andes-sized ego. He isn't going around buying up every financial institution that he can so that he can share power. Sharing isn't his thing. Money and power are.

What is the likelihood of John Reed and Sandy Weill — and their two groups of people — coming together harmoniously and profitably? Zero. Indeed, the only way to explain the merger of Travelers and Citicorp is to look not at the larger issues of corporate strategy but at the narrow interests of the two men who made the deal.

The most telling numbers to emerge from the miasma are these: In 1997, Sandy Weill took home \$230m, while Reed was paid only \$14.4m. The two men say that they intend to share power in their new monolith. And, to make this less awkward for both of them, Reed's paycheck will probably be brought into line with Weill's. Never mind that this makes no sense. Reed won't be doing something so wonderfully new and different in the new company that he deserves a huge pay raise for it. But the pay hike explains why Reed won't be doing something so wonderfully new and different in the new company that he deserves a huge pay raise for it. But the pay hike explains why Reed won't be doing something so wonderfully new and different in the new company that he deserves a huge pay raise for it. But the pay hike explains why Reed won't be doing something so wonderfully new and different in the new company that he deserves a huge pay raise for it.



The merger of Travelers and Citicorp may, more than anything else, reflect the narrow interests of the two men who made the deal, John Reed (foreground) and Sandy Weill (back). (AP)

offset whatever misery befalls him in the distant future.

And you can be sure that misery will befall him, as you can be sure that the hyenas will devour the zebras.

The deal does not hold the same immediate financial potential for Weill: He will not get a giant pay raise. Rather, it offers Weill more power, in the form of a larger organization to boss around. But

it does this only if he shoves Reed aside, which he must if his deal is to make any sense at all. And in the financial world everything always makes sense, even if it shouldn't. (Bloomberg)

## THE CONFERENCE CIRCUIT

By GREER LEW CASHMAN

**21.4** The New Generation Management Club, which focuses on the latest trends in management, will meet at the Sheraton Hotel Tel Aviv in discussion Managing a Company in a Period of Crisis.

**21.4** The first in a series of seminars sponsored by the Israel Management Center on Company Management will be held at the Sheraton Hotel Tel Aviv.

**5.5** The 1998 Capital Markets Conference, sponsored by the Israel Management Center, will be held at the Sheraton Hotel Tel Aviv. The conference will focus on the latest trends in capital markets, including IPOs, Mergers and Acquisitions, and Private Equity.

**7.5** Moving a Swedish High-Tech Company: In sponsoring a study day in conjunction with IBM Israel at the

Herman in Jaffa. Senior executives from both companies will address the statement: The Year 2000 is also the 21st Century. They will also talk about R & D cooperation as well as cooperation in other spheres between the two companies and between Israel and Sweden in general.

**21.5** The five-day Prague International Book Fair will focus to a large extent on Israel's 50th anniversary. A special booth containing Israel Foreign Office publications will help to create more awareness of Israel and Israelis. Only one Israeli publishing company, Gefen Publishing, will have its own booth. In addition to books, Gefen will exhibit three books which contain essays and paintings from among thousands of submissions by high-school students over the past five years. Special Israeli guests attending the fair, including Ephraim Kishon, Hava Semel and Yehuda Amichai, will meet with Czech writers.

**31.6** The venue of the Coesura Conference, the annual gathering of the economic community and the nation's captains of industry, has been moved to Zichron Ya'akov.

## THE JERUSALEM POST

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Due to the Holidays  
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The Advertising Management

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After 6 p.m.: 02-531-5613/57







# Banks boost TASE to record high

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## FOREIGN EXCHANGE RATES

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U.S. Dollar	1.0000	0.0000
British Pound	1.0000	0.0000
French Franc	1.0000	0.0000
Japanese Yen	1.0000	0.0000
Swiss Franc	1.0000	0.0000
Canadian Dollar	1.0000	0.0000
Italian Lira	1.0000	0.0000
Japanese Yen	1.0000	0.0000
Japanese Yen	1.0000	0.0000

## NEW YORK MARKET INDEXES

DJ Industrial	9,141.84	+0.28%
DJ Transport	2,988.26	+0.28%
DJ Utility	2,988.26	+0.28%
DJ Energy	2,988.26	+0.28%
DJ Chemical	2,988.26	+0.28%
DJ Health	2,988.26	+0.28%
DJ Tech	2,988.26	+0.28%
DJ Telecom	2,988.26	+0.28%
DJ Media	2,988.26	+0.28%
DJ Real Estate	2,988.26	+0.28%

## OTHER MARKET INDEXES

FTSE 100	2,988.26	+0.28%
Nikkei 225	15,674.1	+0.84%
DAX	2,988.26	+0.28%
Hang Seng	2,988.26	+0.28%
ASX 200	2,988.26	+0.28%
IBEX 35	2,988.26	+0.28%
FTSE MIB	2,988.26	+0.28%
FTSEuro Stoxx 50	2,988.26	+0.28%
FTSE Global	2,988.26	+0.28%
FTSE Asia	2,988.26	+0.28%

## DOLLAR CROSSEXTES (US)

Japanese Yen	1.0000	0.0000
British Pound	1.0000	0.0000
French Franc	1.0000	0.0000
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## US COMMODITIES

Crude Oil	26.55	+0.12%
Gold	377.37	+0.24%
Silver	5.15	+0.12%
Platinum	2,065.1	+0.12%
Palladium	6,261.1	+0.44%
Natural Gas	2.15	+0.12%
Heating Oil	2.15	+0.12%
Gasoline	2.15	+0.12%
Coal	2.15	+0.12%
Wheat	2.15	+0.12%

## LONDON COMMODITIES

Crude Oil	26.55	+0.12%
Gold	377.37	+0.24%
Silver	5.15	+0.12%
Platinum	2,065.1	+0.12%
Palladium	6,261.1	+0.44%
Natural Gas	2.15	+0.12%
Heating Oil	2.15	+0.12%
Gasoline	2.15	+0.12%
Coal	2.15	+0.12%
Wheat	2.15	+0.12%

## SPOT MARKET METALS (US)

Gold	377.37	+0.24%
Silver	5.15	+0.12%
Platinum	2,065.1	+0.12%
Palladium	6,261.1	+0.44%
Natural Gas	2.15	+0.12%
Heating Oil	2.15	+0.12%
Gasoline	2.15	+0.12%
Coal	2.15	+0.12%
Wheat	2.15	+0.12%

## NEW YORK METAL FUTURES

Gold	377.37	+0.24%
Silver	5.15	+0.12%
Platinum	2,065.1	+0.12%
Palladium	6,261.1	+0.44%
Natural Gas	2.15	+0.12%
Heating Oil	2.15	+0.12%
Gasoline	2.15	+0.12%
Coal	2.15	+0.12%
Wheat	2.15	+0.12%

## LONDON METAL FIXES

Gold	377.37	+0.24%
Silver	5.15	+0.12%
Platinum	2,065.1	+0.12%
Palladium	6,261.1	+0.44%
Natural Gas	2.15	+0.12%
Heating Oil	2.15	+0.12%
Gasoline	2.15	+0.12%
Coal	2.15	+0.12%
Wheat	2.15	+0.12%

## LONDON

Crude Oil	26.55	+0.12%
Gold	377.37	+0.24%
Silver	5.15	+0.12%
Platinum	2,065.1	+0.12%
Palladium	6,261.1	+0.44%
Natural Gas	2.15	+0.12%
Heating Oil	2.15	+0.12%
Gasoline	2.15	+0.12%
Coal	2.15	+0.12%
Wheat	2.15	+0.12%

## PARIS

Crude Oil	26.55	+0.12%
Gold	377.37	+0.24%
Silver	5.15	+0.12%
Platinum	2,065.1	+0.12%
Palladium	6,261.1	+0.44%
Natural Gas	2.15	+0.12%
Heating Oil	2.15	+0.12%
Gasoline	2.15	+0.12%
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Wheat	2.15	+0.12%

## ISRAEL MONEY MARKETS



## Bad back forces Reggie White to retire

GREEN BAY (AP) — Reggie White, the NFL's career sacks leader, is retiring because of a bad back.

"He will be missed for a lot of reasons, but in some respects it's time," Green Bay Packers coach Mike Holmgren said in making the announcement on Sunday.

White, 36, made the Pro Bowl a record 12 times, had 104 sacks last year, giving him

176 for his 13-year career. But he was bothered by a bulging disc in his lower back.

The Packers had wanted him to return for his leadership qualities, promising he'd play about half the snaps. But that wasn't enough to persuade him to change his mind.

White told Holmgren soon after the Packers' 31-24 loss to Denver in the Super Bowl that he wouldn't return to Green Bay.

Holmgren tried to talk his star defensive end out of retirement, telling him he'd only have to play on passing downs in 1998. He asked White to wait until the emotions of the loss to the Broncos had waned so that he could make a decision with a clear head.

On Sunday, White met with Holmgren again and told him his playing days, which began with the Memphis Showboats of the

USFL in 1984, were done.

Green Bay, which lost its other starting defensive end when Gabe Wilkins signed with San Francisco, drafted two defensive linemen, including tackle Vonnie Holliday of North Carolina with the 19th pick, but still wanted White back.

White joined the Packers in 1993 after eight seasons with the Eagles.

## Paceman Giddins celebrates return to Warwickshire

LONDON (Reuters) — Paceman Ed Giddins celebrated his return to county cricket after a 19-month drugs ban with a six for 89 run for new club Warwickshire in their match against Durham yesterday.

Giddins, sacked by Sussex in September 1996 after traces of cocaine were found in a random drugs test, helped Warwickshire a first innings lead of 31 at Edgbaston.

But it was not a happy day for his skipper Brian Lara. The West Indies captain failed again with the bat, following his first innings duck with just 13 as Warwickshire slumped to 60 for five in their second innings.

Neil Smith led a recovery with 90, Warwickshire battling their way to 187 all out.

New county captain Dominic Cork of Derbyshire and Chris Adams of Sussex celebrated victory in their first championship matches in charge.

Their successes were quickly followed by a win for champions Derbyshire, wrapped up with a day to spare.

Robin Martin-Jenkins, who had never scored more than 50 in seven previous first-class matches, was Sussex's match-winner against Lancashire at Hove with a

bold 63 out of 260 for eight.

Derbyshire had just one ball to spare in a thrilling finish against Nottinghamshire at Derby.

Pakistani all-rounder Usman Afzaal made the first century of his career to help Notts to 312 in their second innings, leaving Derbyshire to score 43 in only six overs.

They lost four wickets for 10 but big-hitting Phillip DeFreitas saw them home by six wickets with an unbeaten 32.

Glamorgan beat Gloucestershire by 141 runs as wickets clattered on the third day at Bristol after water seeped under the covers. Nineteen wickets fell for only 121 runs in desperately difficult batting conditions.

Glamorgan crashed from 106 for one overnight to 138 all out, pace-man Jonathan Lewis recording career-best figures of six for 49.

That left Gloucestershire to make 230 but they were shot out for 89. Darren Thomas and Gary Butcher each helped themselves to four wickets.

Aussies beat India in Coca Cola Cup

In Sharjah, Steve Waugh dismissed 4 for 40, including the last three wickets in two overs, to give Australia a 58-run win over India.

## Ramat Gan bowls trio wins Gail Ziv Trophy

By NORMAN SPIRO

The annual Kfar Hamaccabiah Pessah Tournament was concluded on the weekend after a week's concentrated bowling in which 28 Triples teams participated.

In the women's section played for the Gail Ziv Trophy, the Ramat Gan team of Tammy Kamzel, Tzila Gavish and Nina Hakak came through with a final 4 head surge, to win 12-11, against the Savoyon side of Chaya Prager, Ziva Iron and Yehudit Garmiza.

In a tightly contested game 12 singles were scored in the first 14 heads with Savoyon maintaining the pressure to lead 11-5, but a persistent Ramat Gan Trio then broke through for a successive 2, 3, and 1 to peel 11—all at the penultimate end. In the last head

Hakak's leading bowl at the jack remained the winning shot despite valiant and narrowly missing shots from the Savoyon Trio.

The men's section final for the Mendy Donner Trophy was also closely contested between Farkash, Avi N. Lobel and the Ra'anana side of Gerald Sacks, Ralph Rabman and Jeff Milstein. The latter, while trailing by only one shot (12-13), at the 15th end fell away by losing 5 shots in the last three heads and lose 18-12 against the better and more accurate bowling of their opponents.

In the play offs for the bronze, Roy Jening's Savoyon side beat Yoel Melokier's side (also Savoyon) 18-16, while Gienna Eting (Savoyon) beat Rene Kuzman's Ra'anana team 17-9.

## Klinsmann softens contract stance

LONDON (Reuters) — Jurgen Klinsmann will not demand that Tottenham stand by his contract and play him in every match of their relegation struggle.

Klinsmann told yesterday's *Daily Mirror* he would continue to support coach Christian Gross in the last three games of Spurs' season and he was not concerned his poor form would affect his World Cup chances.

"Of course I want to play in the remaining games," the German striker said. "It is important for me with the World Cup coming up but I will not make any problems about that for the club. I will continue to give it my best shot and accept whatever the coach says."

Klinsmann came to Spurs in December and under his contract the London club cannot drop him.

Klinsmann was substituted at halftime of Tottenham's 1-1 draw at Barnsley on Saturday, prompting talk of another row between Klinsmann and Gross.

"It was his decision and I have always gone along with his right to make decisions like that," Klinsmann said.

Tottenham are one place above the relegation zone and just two points above Barnsley.



Battering Rams

Farmers send their livestock into battle at a ram-fighting contest in Anhui Province, China. The outcome of the competition is widely believed to affect the coming harvest.

## Italians soccer brass mulls instant replay possibility

MILAN, (AP) — Instant video replays. Extra linesmen. A computer chip embedded in the ball.

Those solutions and others were discussed yesterday by Italian soccer officials after the latest missed call — a mistake that could have a bearing on the title race.

"Human errors are inevitable. We need to find a solution so they are not determinant," Fiorentina's Luciano Luna said, echoing the thoughts of many who attended a

league council meeting yesterday.

The debate picked up steam because Serie A leader Juventus of Turin held on for a 1-0 win at Empoli Sunday after referee Pasquale Rodomonti failed to see a goal for the hosts.

In the second half, Juventus' keeper Angelo Peruzzi reached behind the goal-line to scoop away a ball headed home by Empoli defender Stefano Bianconi.

Television replays, shown hun-

dreds of times on newscasts, clearly showed the ball had crossed the line and a goal should have been awarded.

"Juventus wins with 12th man," read a headline in *Il Giornale*, a Milan-based newspaper.

Juve's victory kept it one point ahead of second-place Inter Milan with four games left in the season. The two clubs square off next Sunday.

A draw would have helped

Empoli to remain in Serie A.

The Tuscan club is now just one point out of the relegation zone.

"I don't think the rules should remain the same as those from the 1800s," Bologna president Giuseppe Gazzoni Frascara said.

"We can think about a referee behind the goal. Something needs to be done."

Adriano Galliani, vice president of AC Milan and the league, has long advocated using technology

to help referees. "Put a chip in the ball, something that would ring and make clear if the ball went in or not," Galliani said. "It is something very simple, used in other sports like fencing or tennis."

Several officials have lobbied for the use of video replays on the most influential discrepancies, as the NFL did from 1986-91. The league dropped it because it was too time-consuming and often too indecisive.

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# Devil Rays flex expansion muscle

ANAHEIM (AP) — The Tampa Bay Devil Rays (10-6) became the first expansion team to move four games above .500 with a 6-0 win over the Angels on Sunday. The Devil Rays are the first expansion team with a winning record after 16 games and are just a half-game out of first place in the AL East.

Rolando Arroyo (2-1) allowed six hits in seven innings, and Dan Carlson and Roberto Hernandez completed the six-hitter.

Allen Watson (0-2) gave up all the runs and eight hits in 4 1/2 innings.

## Red Sox 2, Indians 0

Bret Saberhagen allowed four hits in six shutout innings as Boston won for their eighth win in nine games this year at Fenway Park. Saberhagen (3-0), who missed the entire 1996 season due to shoulder surgery and pitched just six games last year, struck out four and walked one.

Jim Corsi followed and Tom Gordon pitched the ninth for his fourth save in five chances, completing a seven-hitter.

Dave Burba (2-2) allowed two runs and nine hits in seven innings.

## Mariners 7, Twins 4

Russ Davis' second homer of the game, a three-run shot in the seventh inning, sent Seattle to its fifth straight win following a 3-10 start. The Mariners finished their road trip 5-5.

Mike Timlin pitched three perfect innings for his first save, the Mariners' fourth in five games after not getting one in the first 13. Alex Rodriguez went 3-for-5

with two doubles and a triple, helping Seattle complete the four-game sweep.

Bill Swift (2-0) allowed four runs and six hits in six innings. LaTroy Hawkins (0-2) gave up five runs and six hits in 6 1/2 innings.

## Tigers 2, Yankees 1

Damon Easley's sacrifice fly scored the go-ahead run in the bottom of the eighth, and Brian Moehler (1-2) allowed three hits in eight innings with seven strikeouts as Detroit stopped a seven-game losing streak.

New York had won eight straight overall and 12 in a row at Tiger Stadium.

Todd Jones pitched the ninth for his second save. Darren Holmes (0-1) was the loser.

## Blue Jays 5, White Sox 4

Alex Gonzalez hit a two-out RBI single off Carlos Castillo (0-1) in the bottom of the 12th, and Mike Stanley and Ed Sprague hit consecutive homers in the fourth as Toronto completed a three-game sweep.

Chris Carpenter (1-0) allowed one hit in two shutout innings.

Albert Belle hit his second homer of the season for the White Sox, who have lost six of eight.

## Rangers 11, Orioles 7

Ivan Rodriguez capped a five-run fourth with a three-run homer and went 4-for-5.

Juan Gonzalez had four RBIs to take over the AL lead with 22 as host Texas built an 11-1 lead and won for the sixth time in seven games. The Rangers took two of

three in the series after going 1-10 against Baltimore last season.

Bobby Witt (2-0) allowed three runs and eight hits in eight-plus innings, and John Wetteland got one out for his fourth save. Jimmy Key (2-1) allowed eight runs and 10 hits in 3 1/2 innings as Baltimore lost for the fourth time in five games.

## Royals 7, Athletics 3

Rookie Larry Sutton had four hits and Dean Palmer went 3-for-4 with two RBIs. At 4-12, the host A's are off to their worst start after 16 games since moving to Oakland in 1968.

Pat Rapp (1-1) survived nine hits and two walks over 5 1/2 innings, getting the benefit of four double plays. Jose Rosado pitched three innings for his first save.

Ariel Prieto (0-1) gave up six runs and 11 hits in 4 1/2 innings.

## NATIONAL LEAGUE

### Braves 5, Rockies 3

Larry Walker hit his first homer of the season and host Colorado used a six-run third inning to gain a doubleheader split with the Braves.

Andres Galaraga, who spent the past five seasons in Colorado, homered for Atlanta in both ends of the day-night doubleheader. The Braves tied an NL record by scoring all their runs on five homers to win the first game 5-3.

The power trend continued in Game 2 as Walker hit a solo shot off Dennis Martinez (1-2) in the first inning, and Galaraga countered with a three-run homer in the third.

Rockies starter Jamey Wright (1-2) gave up four runs on eight hits and in 5 1/2 innings. Jerry Dipoto pitched the ninth for his fourth save.

In the first game, Chipper Jones hit his NL-leading ninth homer, and Javy Lopez, Michael Tucker and Keith Lockhart homered for the Braves to support starter Kevin Millwood (3-0). Mark Thompson (1-1) gave up all five homers.

Mets 14, Reds 0  
John Olerud and Bernard Gilkey each had three RBIs and Al Leiter (3-1) allowed four hits in seven shutout innings as visiting New York tied a team record for victory margin in a shutout, set against the Cubs in July 1965. Gilkey became the fourth Met to score five runs in a game.

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## CRITICS' CHOICE

## CLASSICAL MUSIC

MICHAEL AJZENSTADT

The Israel Sinfonietta Beersheba's exciting opera series concludes with extended excerpts from Tchaikovsky's *Engene Onegin* tonight in Ashdod, Saturday in Arad, and Monday in Dimona (8:30 except Saturdays at 9). Menahem Nevenhaus is on the podium. The soloists are Larissa Tetuev as the hapless Tatyana, who resolves to give up her love to maintain her dignity; Vladimir Brown as the nonchalant protagonist who learns too late what love is all about; Yevgeny Shapovalov as the casual and hot-blooded Lensky; and Susanna Poretsky as his flirtatious fiancée, Olga.

Pianist Asaf Fired, winner of the 1988 Rafi Gurenik Prize, performs a recital at the Tel Aviv Museum tonight (8:30), playing piano works by Handel, Haydn, Chopin, Beethoven, Franck and Granados.

## THEATER

HELEN KAYE

At the Cameri, Yossi Graber is the infamous *Mr. Wolf*, a rereading of Hillel Mitznabok of Ben Jonson's classic *Volpone*. In this one, Isaac Wolf is a brothel master who'll stop at nothing to fleece his own brothers because they fleeced him. It's not a kind comment on today's Israeli society, but it's a very funny (and vulgar) show. Tonight on the main stage at 8:30 (Hebrew with simultaneous translation into English).

## FILM

ADINA HOFFMAN

\*\*\*THE BOXER—For all its thematic similarity to other films about "The Troubles" in Northern Ireland, Jim (in *The Name of the Father*) Sheridan's new drama seems different. It's a weaker, more searching attempt to reckon with the idea of tentative peace in the region, and the con-

clusions we may draw from it are more ambiguous. As a prize fighter just released from jail and his childhood sweetheart, now married to someone else, both Daniel Day-Lewis and Emily Watson give serious, subtle performances, and the intelligence of the script (by Sheridan and his usual collaborator Terry George) is clear. That said, there is something strangely inert about the picture. Aside from a few gripping boxing scenes, the movie works mainly at a theoretical level and lacks a potent dramatic pulse. We never really understand what motivates Day-Lewis's Danny Flynn. He remains a cipher, and though the decision by the screenwriters to leave out certain details of his political and personal past is understandable, other omissions are more problematic and make it hard to feel strongly for the character. (Parental guidance very strongly advised.)

Emily Watson gives a subtle performance in "The Boxer."

## TV

CHANNEL 1 (11)

6:30 News flash  
6:31 News in Arabic  
6:45 Good Morning Israel

EDUCATIONAL TV (11)

8:00 Questions About Behavior  
8:30 Art Workshop  
9:00 Science and Nature  
10:00 Programs for the Very Young  
11:00 English  
12:00 French  
12:30 Science and Technology  
13:00 Geography  
13:30 Animation  
15:00 Pretty Sutterly

CHANNEL 1 (11)

15:30 Eia Lij and Zap 1  
15:35 X Men  
16:00 Beyer Grove  
16:30 Fantasia - Part 2  
16:59 A New Evening  
17:34 The Adventures of Ferdinand Perchutur  
18:00 Eia and Lij  
18:15 News in English

ARABIC PROGRAMS

18:30 Apropo  
19:00 News

HEBREW PROGRAMS

19:30 News flash  
19:31 The Simpsons  
19:33 Filmed on the Street  
20:00 News  
20:45 Mine Host Meni Piter  
21:55 Lotu Draw  
22:00 Brooklyn South  
22:45 First Person  
23:25 Filmed on the Street  
23:45 News  
00:00 Verse of the Day

CHANNEL 2 (22)

5:45 Today's Programs  
5:58 On the Edge of the Shelf  
6:00 Cartoons  
6:45 Reshet Morning  
9:00 Meetings  
10:00 Pablo  
11:00 Eli With Bread, Lemon and Garlic  
12:00 Ahalan  
12:01 Wasthalan  
12:30 Eia Lij and Zap 1  
12:31 The Simpsons  
12:33 Filmed on the Street  
13:00 News  
13:30 John Larroquette  
13:31 The Simpsons  
13:33 Filmed on the Street  
14:00 News  
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23:33 Filmed on the Street  
24:00 News

CHANNEL 3 (22)

7:00 Good Evening  
7:15 Reshet Evening  
7:30 Love Story with Yossi Sykes (rpt)  
8:00 Celeste  
8:30 One Life to Live  
9:45 The Young and the Restless (rpt)  
10:30 Days of Our Lives  
11:15 Dukes Area (rpt)  
12:00 The Love Boat  
12:45 Hart to Hart  
13:30 John Larroquette  
14:00 Bewitched  
14:30 The Young and the Restless  
15:35 Judge Judy  
16:00 Dukes Area  
16:45 One Life to Live  
17:30 Love Story with Yossi Sykes  
18:00 Good Evening  
18:15 Reshet Evening  
18:30 Love Story with Yossi Sykes  
19:00 Celeste  
19:30 One Life to Live  
20:00 News  
20:30 The Simpsons  
20:31 The Simpsons  
20:33 Filmed on the Street  
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23:30 The Simpsons  
23:31 The Simpsons  
23:33 Filmed on the Street  
24:00 News

CHANNEL 4 (22)

7:00 Good Evening  
7:15 Reshet Evening  
7:30 Love Story with Yossi Sykes (rpt)  
8:00 Celeste  
8:30 One Life to Live  
9:45 The Young and the Restless (rpt)  
10:30 Days of Our Lives  
11:15 Dukes Area (rpt)  
12:00 The Love Boat  
12:45 Hart to Hart  
13:30 John Larroquette  
14:00 Bewitched  
14:30 The Young and the Restless  
15:35 Judge Judy  
16:00 Dukes Area  
16:45 One Life to Live  
17:30 Love Story with Yossi Sykes  
18:00 Good Evening  
18:15 Reshet Evening  
18:30 Love Story with Yossi Sykes  
19:00 Celeste  
19:30 One Life to Live  
20:00 News  
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23:31 The Simpsons  
23:33 Filmed on the Street  
24:00 News

CHANNEL 5 (22)

7:00 Good Evening  
7:15 Reshet Evening  
7:30 Love Story with Yossi Sykes (rpt)  
8:00 Celeste  
8:30 One Life to Live  
9:45 The Young and the Restless (rpt)  
10:30 Days of Our Lives  
11:15 Dukes Area (rpt)  
12:00 The Love Boat  
12:45 Hart to Hart  
13:30 John Larroquette  
14:00 Bewitched  
14:30 The Young and the Restless  
15:35 Judge Judy  
16:00 Dukes Area  
16:45 One Life to Live  
17:30 Love Story with Yossi Sykes  
18:00 Good Evening  
18:15 Reshet Evening  
18:30 Love Story with Yossi Sykes  
19:00 Celeste  
19:30 One Life to Live  
20:00 News  
20:30 The Simpsons  
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20:33 Filmed on the Street  
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22:33 Filmed on the Street  
23:00 News  
23:30 The Simpsons  
23:31 The Simpsons  
23:33 Filmed on the Street  
24:00 News

CHANNEL 6 (22)

7:00 Good Evening  
7:15 Reshet Evening  
7:30 Love Story with Yossi Sykes (rpt)  
8:00 Celeste  
8:30 One Life to Live  
9:45 The Young and the Restless (rpt)  
10:30 Days of Our Lives  
11:15 Dukes Area (rpt)  
12:00 The Love Boat  
12:45 Hart to Hart  
13:30 John Larroquette  
14:00 Bewitched  
14:30 The Young and the Restless  
15:35 Judge Judy  
16:00 Dukes Area  
16:45 One Life to Live  
17:30 Love Story with Yossi Sykes  
18:00 Good Evening  
18:15 Reshet Evening  
18:30 Love Story with Yossi Sykes  
19:00 Celeste  
19:30 One Life to Live  
20:00 News  
20:30 The Simpsons  
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22:33 Filmed on the Street  
23:00 News  
23:30 The Simpsons  
23:31 The Simpsons  
23:33 Filmed on the Street  
24:00 News

CHANNEL 7 (22)

7:00 Good Evening  
7:15 Reshet Evening  
7:30 Love Story with Yossi Sykes (rpt)  
8:00 Celeste  
8:30 One Life to Live  
9:45 The Young and the Restless (rpt)  
10:30 Days of Our Lives  
11:15 Dukes Area (rpt)  
12:00 The Love Boat  
12:45 Hart to Hart  
13:30 John Larroquette  
14:00 Bewitched  
14:30 The Young and the Restless  
15:35 Judge Judy  
16:00 Dukes Area  
16:45 One Life to Live  
17:30 Love Story with Yossi Sykes  
18:00 Good Evening  
18:15 Reshet Evening  
18:30 Love Story with Yossi Sykes  
19:00 Celeste  
19:30 One Life to Live  
20:00 News  
20:30 The Simpsons  
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22:33 Filmed on the Street  
23:00 News  
23:30 The Simpsons  
23:31 The Simpsons  
23:33 Filmed on the Street  
24:00 News

CHANNEL 8 (22)

7:00 Good Evening  
7:15 Reshet Evening  
7:30 Love Story with Yossi Sykes (rpt)  
8:00 Celeste  
8:30 One Life to Live  
9:45 The Young and the Restless (rpt)  
10:30 Days of Our Lives  
11:15 Dukes Area (rpt)  
12:00 The Love Boat  
12:45 Hart to Hart  
13:30 John Larroquette  
14:00 Bewitched  
14:30 The Young and the Restless  
15:35 Judge Judy  
16:00 Dukes Area  
16:45 One Life to Live  
17:30 Love Story with Yossi Sykes  
18:00 Good Evening  
18:15 Reshet Evening  
18:30 Love Story with Yossi Sykes  
19:00 Celeste  
19:30 One Life to Live  
20:00 News  
20:30 The Simpsons  
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22:33 Filmed on the Street  
23:00 News  
23:30 The Simpsons  
23:31 The Simpsons  
23:33 Filmed on the Street  
24:00 News

CHANNEL 9 (22)

7:00 Good Evening  
7:15 Reshet Evening  
7:30 Love Story with Yossi Sykes (rpt)  
8:00 Celeste  
8:30 One Life to Live  
9:45 The Young and the Restless (rpt)  
10:30 Days of Our Lives  
11:15 Dukes Area (rpt)  
12:00 The Love Boat  
12:45 Hart to Hart  
13:30 John Larroquette  
14:00 Bewitched  
14:30 The Young and the Restless  
15:35 Judge Judy  
16:00 Dukes Area  
16:45 One Life to Live  
17:30 Love Story with Yossi Sykes  
18:00 Good Evening  
18:15 Reshet Evening  
18:30 Love Story with Yossi Sykes  
19:00 Celeste  
19:30 One Life to Live  
20:00 News  
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22:33 Filmed on the Street  
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23:30 The Simpsons  
23:31 The Simpsons  
23:33 Filmed on the Street  
24:00 News

CHANNEL 10 (22)

7:00 Good Evening  
7:15 Reshet Evening  
7:30 Love Story with Yossi Sykes (rpt)  
8:00 Celeste  
8:30 One Life to Live  
9:45 The Young and the Restless (rpt)  
10:30 Days of Our Lives  
11:15 Dukes Area (rpt)  
12:00 The Love Boat  
12:45 Hart to Hart  
13:30 John Larroquette  
14:00 Bewitched  
14:30 The Young and the Restless  
15:35 Judge Judy  
16:00 Dukes Area  
16:45 One Life to Live  
17:30 Love Story with Yossi Sykes  
18:00 Good Evening  
18:15 Reshet Evening  
18:30 Love Story with Yossi Sykes  
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19:30 One Life to Live  
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23:30 The Simpsons  
23:31 The Simpsons  
23:33 Filmed on the Street  
24:00 News

CHANNEL 11 (22)

7:00 Good Evening  
7:15 Reshet Evening  
7:30 Love Story with Yossi Sykes (rpt)  
8:00 Celeste  
8:30 One Life to Live  
9:45 The Young and the Restless (rpt)  
10:30 Days of Our Lives  
11:15 Dukes Area (rpt)  
12:00 The Love Boat  
12:45 Hart to Hart  
13:30 John Larroquette  
14:00 Bewitched  
14:30 The Young and the Restless  
15:35 Judge Judy  
16:00 Dukes Area  
16:45 One Life to Live  
17:30 Love Story with Yossi Sykes  
18:00 Good Evening  
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22:33 Filmed on the Street  
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23:30 The Simpsons  
23:31 The Simpsons  
23:33 Filmed on the Street  
24:00 News

CHANNEL 12 (22)

7:00 Good Evening  
7:15 Reshet Evening  
7:30 Love Story with Yossi Sykes (rpt)  
8:00 Celeste  
8:30 One Life to Live  
9:45 The Young and the Restless (rpt)  
10:30 Days of Our Lives  
11:15 Dukes Area (rpt)  
12:00 The Love Boat  
12:45 Hart to Hart  
13:30 John Larroquette  
14:00 Bewitched  
14:30 The Young and the Restless  
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CHANNEL 13 (22)

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CHANNEL 18 (22)

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CHANNEL 20 (22)

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CHANNEL 22 (22)

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CHANNEL 23 (22)

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## Sports Editors

Joe Hoffman &amp; Ori Lewis

Tanui wins  
Boston  
Marathon

BOSTON (AP) — Moses Tanui won Kenya's eighth consecutive Boston Marathon yesterday, outdueling countryman Joseph Chebet in the final stretch.

Tanui, who also won in 1996 and finished fifth last year despite bronchitis, had an unofficial time of 2 hours, 7 minutes and 33 seconds — the third fastest in the 102-year Boston Marathon history.

He sprinted ahead 300 yards from the finish to earn the \$80,000 first prize.

Andre Ramos of Brazil was side by side with the leaders through Brookline's Coolidge Corner, the 24-mile mark, before falling back.

A field of 11,499 runners and 66 wheelchair racers left Hopkinton at noon, a field second in size only to the race's massive centennial edition. Winds approaching 11 mph and temperatures of 59°F with 85% humidity greeted the runners at the start.

A night of rain gave way to cloudy skies by midmorning. Race officials hoped the dry weather and a tailwind would allow for a fast pace.

The field was missing last year's men's winner, Lameck Aguta, who is recovering from a robbery and beating in Kenya. Elena Meyer, one of the women's favorites, was out with a back injury.

Louise Sauvage won her second consecutive women's wheelchair race, overcoming a huge deficit to beat seven-time winner Jean Driscoll by less than a chair's length in 1:41:19.

The defending champion from Australia rallied in the final mile before passing Driscoll at the tape. Driscoll of Champaign, Ill., had won seven consecutive races before coming in second to Sauvage last year when she got caught in a trolley track and flipped her chair.

Switzerland's Franz Nietlispach easily won his third men's wheelchair title, rolling into Copley Square in 1:21:52.



NEW YORK (AP) — The NBA regular season ended with a bang in Vancouver and Sacramento played the final few seconds of overtime in the last bad-vs.-bad matchup to be seen for awhile. The postseason begins Thursday, and fans won't have to put up with the laggards and underachievers like the Grizzlies and Kings who have stuck around for the past 5½ months and 1,189 regular-season games.

Now, only the best remain.

And the New Jersey Nets earned the right to be called one of them

NBA Playoff Glimpse  
FIRST ROUND  
(Best-of-5)

Thursday  
Atlanta at Charlotte, Cleveland at Indiana, San Antonio at Phoenix, Houston at Utah.

Friday  
New York at Miami, New Jersey at Chicago, Minnesota at Seattle, Portland at L.A. Lakers.

Sunday by qualifying for the final playoff spot in the Eastern Conference — and the right to play the defending champion Chicago Bulls — with a 114-101 victory over the Detroit Pistons.

"We'll be playing the best team in basketball, and the whole world — and everyone in the NBA — will be watching," All-Star center Jayson Williams said. "Now everybody can see what the New Jersey Nets have accomplished."

Most of the other games Sunday were meaningless, but there were a couple with playoff implications.

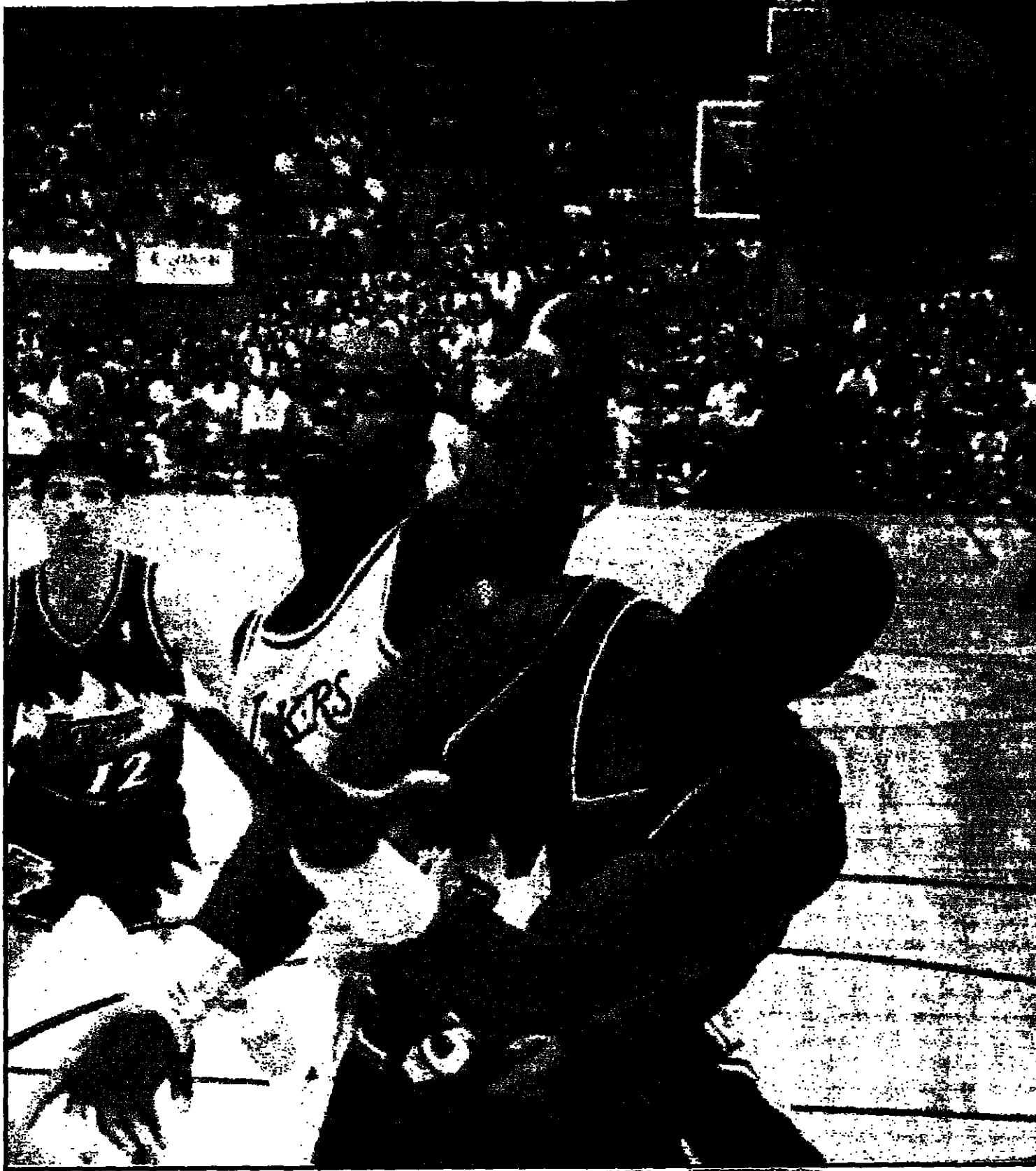
Charlotte defeated Orlando 89-76 to clinch homecourt advantage in its first-round series against Atlanta. Phoenix defeated Houston 123-93 to clinch the home court against San Antonio, and Seattle beat Portland 90-82 to win the Pacific Division.

Hornets 89, Magic 76  
Host Charlotte won the home-court edge, but it will be playing a Hawks team that swept them 4-0 in the season series.

"It's real important. We want to gain any edge that we possibly can," said Hornets coach Dave Cowens, whose team went 32-9 this season at the Charlotte Coliseum, the best home record in the franchise's 10-year history. "We'll try to undo what happened during the course of the season."

Suns 123, Rockets 93  
Cliff Robinson had 32 points as visiting Phoenix had little trouble scoring inside against the Rockets, who were without Hakeem Olajuwon (swollen knee) and Charles Barkley (groin injury).

Clyde Drexler, who will retire at the end of the season to coach the University of Houston, had 11 points and nine rebounds. But he failed to hit a 3-pointer that would have tied the club record of 23



PUSH 'N' SHOVE — Utah's Karl Malone (front) fouls Lakers' Shaquille O'Neal in first-period action. Los Angeles beat the Jazz 102-98.

straight games with at least one.

Sonics 90, Trail Blazers 82  
Gary Payton scored 22 of his 27 points in the second half, including a key three-point play with 59 seconds to play. The win gave visiting Seattle its third consecutive division title and fourth in five years.

"I've won so many of them now that it doesn't make that much difference to me," Payton said. "I'm just happy for the young guys. Now they've got to understand that it's over with. We won it."

"Let's get ready to play basketball because all of that can go down the drain if we lose in the first round."

Lakers 102, Jazz 98  
Shaquille O'Neal had 33 points

and 15 rebounds and Kobe Bryant played one of his best games since the All-Star break, scoring 12 of his 25 points in the final period as Los Angeles won at home.

Hawks 101, Heat 89  
Steve Smith pushed his scoring average from 19.9 to 20.2 by shooting 9-of-15 from the field and 10-of-11 at the line for 30 points as Atlanta notched a home win.

Miami lost its last three games.

Spurs 96, Nuggets 82  
Host San Antonio set an NBA record for the largest single season turnaround.

The Spurs, with 56 victories, had a 36-game improvement over last season. That surpassed the previous record of a 35-game

swing by San Antonio during David Robinson's rookie year, 1989-90.

The Nuggets announced the firing of coach Bill Hanzlik.

76ers 107, Raptors 78  
Allen Iverson scored 26 points to lead the visiting Sixers (31-51), who finished with nine more wins than last year, but still not enough for the playoffs. Philadelphia has not been in the postseason since 1991.

Grizzlies 112, Kings 108 (OT)  
Tony Massenburg had a career-high 34 points as visiting Vancouver sent the Kings to their 19th loss in 20 games. Sacramento finished the season with 19 losses in its final 20 games.

Jordan  
wins 10th  
scoring title

NEW YORK (AP) — Shaquille O'Neal came up 26 points shy of a scoring title.

O'Neal, who needed to score 59 points to overtake Michael Jordan's average, scored 33 Sunday as the Lakers beat the Utah Jazz on the final day of the regular season.

## NBA leaders, Page 18

"I've already won a scoring title," said O'Neal, who led the league with a 29.3 average for Orlando in 1994-95 — the year Jordan was finishing his baseball career.

"I want that jewelry. That's all I want," O'Neal said.

Jordan won his 10th scoring title, the most in league history, with an average of 28.7 per game — the lowest league-leading average since Alex English scored 28.4 for the 1982-83 Denver Nuggets. O'Neal finished with an average of 28.3.

Dennis Rodman won an unprecedented seventh consecutive rebounding title with an average of 15.0.

Rod Strickland won the assists title by averaging 10.5 per game, the lowest league-leading total since Magic Johnson averaged the same number in 1982-83.

Mookie Blaylock led the league in steals for the second straight season, averaging 2.61 to edge rookie Brevin Knight of Cleveland.

Marcus Camby won the blocked shots title with an average of 3.65, not even needing the 10 rejections he tallied Sunday as he had a triple-double in a loss to the 76ers.

Chris Mullin was the most accurate free throw shooter (93.9 percent). O'Neal was the most accurate from the field (58.6 percent) and Dale Ellis won the 3-point accuracy title for the first time in his career by shooting 46.4 percent from behind the arc.

## Final NBA Standings

EASTERN CONFERENCE					WESTERN CONFERENCE				
Atlantic Division	W	L	Pct.	GB	Midwest Division	W	L	Pct.	GB
x-Miami	55	27	.671	—	x-Dal	62	20	.756	—
x-New York	43	39	.524	12	y-San Antonio	56	26	.683	6
y-New Jersey	43	39	.524	12	y-Minnesota	45	37	.549	17
Washington	42	40	.513	13	y-Houston	41	41	.500	21
Orlando	41	41	.500	14	Dallas	28	62	.344	42
Heat	36	46	.439	19	Vancouver	19	63	.232	43
Philadelphia	31	51	.378	24	Denver	11	71	.134	51
Central Division					Pacific Division				
x-Chicago	62	20	.756	—	x-Sacramento	61	21	.744	—
y-Indiana	58	24	.707	4	y-L.A. Lakers	61	21	.744	—
y-Charlotte	51	31	.622	11	y-Pacers	56	26	.683	5
y-Atlanta	50	32	.610	12	y-Portland	46	36	.561	15
y-Cleveland	47	35	.573	15	Sacramento	27	55	.329	34
Detroit	37	45	.451	25	Golden State	19	63	.232	42
Milwaukee	36	46	.439	26	L.A. Clippers	17	65	.207	44
Toronto	16	66	.195	46					

x-clinched division title, y-clinched playoff spot, z-clinched conference title

Beersheba,  
Mac. Haifa hope  
to salvage season  
in State Cup semis

By ORI LEWIS

The State Cup semifinals which take place this afternoon are one of the highlights of the soccer season, a veritable festival in front of a fascinated crowd at the National Stadium, Ramat Gan.

Hapoel Beersheba, the holders, will take on Hapoel Jerusalem in the first match of the doubleheader, with kickoff at 17:30. The second semifinal will see cup favorites Maccabi Haifa play Ironi Ashdod.

For all four clubs, today marks the opportunity to salvage something from a less-than-successful season. Beersheba are teetering on the brink of relegation, and without 17-year-old star Yossi Benayoun, who is on international duty with the under-18 side in Spain today, the southerners are wondering who will pick up the slack.

Added to their woes was the suspension until the end of the season of Sharon Buchnik by coach Eliahu Ofer on Sunday. Buchnik gave away a penalty in the 85th minute which saw Beersheba end up in a 3-3 draw with Maccabi Herzliya. The loss of two vital points was received as a severe blow in the Negev and this could be the difference between survival in the National League and relegation.

Hapoel Jerusalem have not made it to a semifinal since 1972, the year they won the cup. The side lacks the experience on the big occasion and have few players who have played on a big match day. Jerusalem will take heart from the absence of Benayoun, who has been instrumental in almost single-handedly winning matches for Beersheba.

Just to be sure, the Jerusalemites practiced taking penalty kicks at their final training session yesterday, although they hope they will not have to relive the 9-8 penalty-kick win over Hapoel Tel Aviv in the quarterfinals. The Beersheba-Jerusalem match will be televised live on Channel 2 at 17:30.

There is no doubt about favorites in the second match, Maccabi Haifa, who have most recently experienced a final in 1995 when they beat Hapoel Haifa 2-0, should find Ironi Ashdod, who have never played in a semifinal before, jittery in the early stages of the match.

Haifa have won the State Cup four times, three of the triumphs having come in the 1990s, and club boss Ya'acov Shahar will desperately want to save something from a particularly disappointing season which could see the greens end up with no more than an Interoto Cup place.

And that's a competition nobody wants to play in.

## Senators beat Sabres, enjoy best-ever season



BUFFALO (AP) — Shawn McEachern scored two goals as the Ottawa Senators finished off their best season ever with a 2-1 victory over the Buffalo Sabres.

McEachern scored in each of the first two periods, and Ottawa finished with a winning record for the first time in its six-year existence at 34-33-15 and won for the sixth time in nine games.

The Senators outshot the Sabres 51-27, including 22-5 in the first period. Donald Audette scored the only goal for Buffalo, which went 0-2-1 over its final three games.

The 51 shots were two shy of a season high for Ottawa and were the most allowed by Buffalo this season.

Capitals 2, Hurricanes 1  
Peter Bondra scored his 51st and 52nd goals as host Washington secured fourth place in the Eastern Conference.

The Capitals, securing home ice for the first time since the 1992-93 season, will play Boston in the first round.

Bruins 2, Flyers 1  
Steve Heinze scored his fourth

goal in as many games as host Boston locked up fifth place in the Eastern Conference.

Byron Dafeo, who has been a big part of Boston's turnaround under first-year coach Pat Burns, stopped 26 shots. He finished the season with six shutouts and a 2.24 goals-against average in 65 games.

Maple Leafs 2, Canucks 1  
Rookie Daniel Markov and Steve Sullivan scored second-period goals 75 seconds apart as visiting Toronto ended a dismal season.

Toronto finished at 30-43-9, earning one more point than last

year. The win, coming in a meaningless game between two teams eliminated from NHL playoff contention, also allowed Toronto to finish in sole possession of 10th place in the Western Conference standings.

Blues 5, Mighty Ducks 3  
Michel Picard scored his first goal in more than two years and set up the tying goal by Chris Prosser as St. Louis won on the road.

Pierre Turgeon and Pavol Demitra also scored and Brett Hull snapped a career-worst 10-game goal-scoring drought with an empty-netter for the Blues.

Stars clinch best record,  
Penguins' Jagr wins scoring title

NEW YORK (AP) — The Dallas Stars went down to the last weekend of the NHL season before winning the Presidents' Trophy.

Pittsburgh's Jaromir Jagr didn't have to sweat that much to win the Ross.

With 109 points, the Stars beat New Jersey by two for the best record in the NHL and gained home-ice advantage throughout the playoffs. The Stars and Devils waged a torrid battle right down to the final game of the season before Dallas clinched the team trophy with a 3-1 victory over Chicago on Saturday.

It was the first Presidents' Trophy for the Stars, who finished with a 49-22-11 record to 48-23-11 for the Devils. The Colorado Avalanche won last year's trophy with 107 points.

The individual scoring race wasn't that close. With 102 points, Jagr was the only player in the league to reach the century mark. Colorado's Peter Forsberg was runnerup with 91 and the New York Rangers' Wayne Gretzky was tied for third with Vancouver's Pavel Bure at 90.

Gretzky tied Jagr for most assists with 67. It's the

16th time in his 19-year career that the NHL's scoring leader has topped the league in that department. Jagr's point total, based on 35 goals and 67 assists, reflected the lower-scoring trend in the NHL of late. His total was the lowest to lead the league over a full season since 1967-68 when Chicago's Stan Mikita had 87 points. Last season, Pittsburgh's Mario Lemieux won with 122 points and the season before, the top 10 scorers in the league were all over 100.

Anaheim's Teemu Selanne and Washington's Peter Bondra were the NHL's top goal-scorers with 52.

The Devils, meanwhile, captured the Jennings Trophy for fewest goals allowed. Goalies Martin Brodeur and Mike Dunham combined to allow only 166 goals in 82 games, one less than the Stars.

"My teammates did a great job," Brodeur said. "I think everyone was pulling for that. This means a lot to these guys."

"It means a lot to me that the guys really bore down and played well for me."

St. Louis scored the most goals — 256.

Carolina	0	0	1-1				WESTERN CONFERENCE						
Washington	1	1	0-2				Central Division						
First Period-1, Washington, Bonanza 81 (Kornatowski, Nikulin), 1:00 (P). Second Period-2, Washington, Bonanza 52, 5:32 (P). Third Period-3, Carolina, Bonanza 2, 8:47 (P). Korn, 3:46, Goals-Carolina, Jastkowski. Washington, Kozak, A-18,55.	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA	x-Bulls	49	22	11	109	242	167
Philadelphia	0	0	1-1				x-St. Louis	44	23	15	103	250	196
Boston	1	1	0-2				x-Phoenix	45	25	8	98	256	204
First Period-1, Boston, Heinze 26 (Wilson, Ledyard), 17:26 (P). Second Period-2, Third Period-3, Philadelphia, Boston 72 (McLennan), 1:27, 3:3, Philadelphia, Griffin 22 (Dejaime), 8:58 (P). Goals-Philadelphia Boris, Boston, DeLoe, A-17,55.	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA	Chicago	30	39	13	73	192	199
Ottawa	1	1	0-2				Toronto	30	43	9	69	194	237
Buffalo	0	0	1-1				Pacific Division						
First Period-1, Ottawa, McEachern 23 (Heiden, Affensoren), 7:22. Second Period-2, Dallas, McEachern 24 (Hastin, Murray), 4:01, 3. Buttke, Auld, A-18,55. Goals-Philadelphia, Third Period-None. Goals-Ottawa, Rhodes. Buttke, Hassel, Shields, A-16,55.	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA	y-Colorado	39	26	17	95	231	205
Atlanta	0	0	1-1				x-Los Angeles	38	33	11	87	227	225
First Period-1, Ottawa, McEachern 23 (Heiden, Affensoren), 7:22. Second Period-2, Dallas, McEachern 24 (Hastin, Murray), 4:01, 3. Buttke, Auld, A-18,55. Goals-Philadelphia, Third Period-None. Goals-Ottawa, Rhodes. Buttke, Hassel, Shields, A-16,55.	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA	x-Edmonton	35	37	10	80	215	224
Philadelphia	0	0	1-1				x-San Jose	34	38	10	78	210	216
Calgary	26	41	15	67	217	252							
Anaheim	26	43	13	65	205	243							
Vancouver	25	43	14	64	224	273							

x-clinched playoff berth  
y-clinched division title  
z-clinched conference title

NHL Playoff Glimpse  
FIRST ROUND  
(Best-of-7)

Tomorrow  
Ottawa at New Jersey, Buffalo at Philadelphia, Boston at Washington, San Jose at Dallas, Edmonton at Colorado, Phoenix at Detroit.  
Thursday  
Montreal at Pittsburgh, Los Angeles at St. Louis.

مكنايم التتويج